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NASA-SPACEX MISSION

New crew off to space station

This will pave the way for the return of U.S. astronauts Butch Wilmore, Sunita Williams

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Why has India got another tiger reserve?

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BLA: The rebels who shook Pakistan

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Mumbai pips Delhi, regains WPL crown

SPORT » PAGE 17

NEARBY

Parties spar over quota for Muslims

NEW DELHI/MYSURU
The decision of the Karnataka government to provide 4% reservation to Muslims, under 2B of the OBC quota in the award of contracts below ₹2 crore, led to the national leaders of the BJP and Congress sparring on the issue on Saturday. » PAGE 7

BBMP gets 80 acres for SWM project

BENGALURU
The BBMP has taken possession of 80 acres at Gollahalli in Bengaluru Rural district for its end-to-end Integrated Solid Waste Management System project.

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EC revisits EPIC-Aadhaar link plan after 2015 halt

Chief Election Commissioner calls meeting with Home Secretary, Legislative Secretary and UIDAI official, days after Opposition alleged duplication in EPIC numbers and manipulation in voter lists

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Amid Opposition allegations of manipulation of voters' lists, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar has called a meeting with the Union Home Secretary, the Legislative Secretary and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to explore linking of voter ID with Aadhaar.

Election Commission (EC) sources said on Saturday that Mr. Kumar will meet the officials on Tuesday.

Trinamool complaint

The move comes close on the heels of the ruling Trinamool Congress in West Bengal, where the Assembly election is due in 2026, flagging the issuance of same elector photo identity card (EPIC) numbers to voters in different States. Opposition parties have raised the matter in Parliament and outside. The Leader of the Opposition, Rahul Gandhi took it up in the Lok Sabha. Earlier, the Congress had alleged manipulation of voters' lists during the Maharashtra Assembly election.

The Election Commission had clarified that the duplication had occurred due to manual errors before the ERONET digital platform for voter enrolment was introduced. It had also assured parties that voters with same EPIC numbers registered in different States could still vote using their domicile documents. The EC had promised to resolve the issue in the three months.

The EC first tried the Aadhaar-voter ID linking in February 2015 when it launched the National Electoral Rolls Purification and Authentication Programme (NERPAP) to address duplicate entries in electoral rolls. It had linked over 300 million voters in a span of three months.

However, the Supreme Court, in an interim order in 2015, held that the mandatory use of Aadhaar should be only for welfare schemes and PAN linking. Hence, the NERPAP exercise was discontinued.

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The missing links

A brief timeline of the efforts to link Aadhaar with voter ID

FEB. 2015: EC launches NERPAP to link Aadhaar with Voter ID and eliminate duplicate entries. Over 300 million voters were linked within three months

AUG. 2015: Supreme Court issues an interim order restricting Aadhaar's mandatory use to welfare schemes and PAN linking

MARCH 11, 2025: Trinamool Congress delegation meets the Election Commission over allegations of duplicate EPIC numbers and cloned Aadhaar cards

India plans to fence its entire border with Myanmar in 10 years

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The 1,643-km-long border with Myanmar will be entirely ringed with an "anti-cut, anti-climb" fence in 10 years, according to government officials and a parliamentary panel report.

The fencing project was announced by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in February 2024 and the work has gathered pace in the past three or four months, officials said.

From April 1-December 31, 2024, ₹114.09 crore has been spent on constructing the fence and the company operating bases (COBs) for the Assam Rifles, responsible for guarding the Myanmar border.

"The technology is developed by our own engineers. It has anti-cut and anti-climb features that will deter illegal infiltration," said a senior official of the Assam Rifles.

Jawans on the India-Myanmar border. FILE PHOTO

India and Myanmar share an unfenced border, which runs along four States. Both countries have a unique arrangement called the Free Movement Regime (FMR), which allows people to visit families residing within 10 km on both sides of the border without visas or a passport. Former Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh had attributed the ongoing ethnic violence to the unregulated movement of people.

CONTINUED ON
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Ranya case: DGP Rao sent on compulsory leave

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

K. Ramachandra Rao, Director-General of Police, Karnataka State Police Housing Corporation and stepfather of actor Ranya Rao, was sent on compulsory leave from Saturday.

A Government Order has given Additional Director-General of Police, Recruitment, K.V. Sharath Chandra, concurrent charge of chairman and managing director of Karnataka State Police Housing and Infrastructure Development Corporation.

Ranya Rao was arrested by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) after she was caught smuggling 14.2 kg of gold at Kempegowda International Airport on March 3.

CONTINUED ON
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U.S. planning visa curbs on 41 nations

Reuters
WASHINGTON

The Trump administration is considering issuing sweeping travel restrictions for the citizens of dozens of countries as part of a new ban, according to sources familiar with the matter and an internal memo seen by *Reuters*.

The memo lists a total of 41 countries divided into three separate groups.

The first group of 10 countries, including Afghanistan, Iran, Syria, Cuba and North Korea, would be set for a full visa suspension. In the second group, five nations – Eritrea, Haiti, Laos, Myanmar and South Sudan – would face partial suspensions that would impact tourist and student visas as well as other immigrant visas, with some exceptions.

In the third group, a total of 26 countries, including Belarus, Pakistan and Turkmenistan, would be considered for a partial suspension of U.S. visa issuance if their governments "do not make efforts to address deficiencies within 60 days", the memo said.

A U.S. official speaking on the condition of anonymity said that there could be changes on the list and that it was yet to be approved by the administration, including U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

The New York Times first reported on the list of countries.

The move harkens back to President Donald Trump's first-term ban on travellers from seven majority-Muslim countries, a policy that went through several iterations before it was upheld by the Supreme Court in 2018.

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No entry

1. Citizens of 10 countries, including Afghanistan, Iran, Syria, Cuba and North Korea, will be totally barred from entering U.S.
2. Five countries, including Eritrea, Laos and Myanmar, will face partial visa suspension
3. Twenty-six nations, including Pakistan, whose citizens will have 60 days to address U.S. concerns

Festive sales: A vendor arranging earthen pots for sale ahead of the Attukal Pongala festival in Thiruvananthapuram.

Sacred flame: Devotees lighting ceremonial lemon lamps (*naranga vilakku*) at the Attukal Bhagavathy Temple.

Holy ritual: Boys taking part in 'Kuthiyottam' ritual wait in line before taking the holy bath at the Attukal Bhagavathy temple ahead of Pongala in Thiruvananthapuram.

City of a goddess

Waves of women fill the streets of Thiruvananthapuram on the day of Pongala, a ritual to propitiate the mother goddess with offerings cooked in lines and lines of streetside basic hearths

Nirmal Harindran
nirmal.harindran@thehindu.co.in

They come from all around the globe, braving the heat and humongous crowds, to cook offerings for their dear goddess in bare, basic hearths got up with a few red bricks on the roadside and using just dry palm fronds as fuel. The Pongala ritual at the Attukal Bhagavathy temple in Thiruvananthapuram is held every year, redolent of a mythical story of vengeance by a woman, her fight against injustice and her transformation to a goddess. It's the day when only women are allowed on many streets in the heart of Thiruvananthapuram.

The ritual remains a celebration of the legendary journey made by Kannagi after destroying Madurai. She is believed to have stopped at Attukal and her divine transformation began as Attukalamma before she left for Kodungallur in central Kerala. The Pongala ritual has turned into one of the largest gatherings of women anywhere in the world, and in 2009, the Guinness World Records recognised it as the largest religious gathering of women on a single day when over 25 lakh women took part. This year, the ritual was held on March 13.

Over the years, the ritual has branched out from the Attukal Bhagavathy temple to the periphery of the city through the narrow lanes as well as the arteries of the Kerala capital. Devotees start rushing to the temple to catch a glimpse of Attukalamma before they secure a spot within a wide radius of the temple for the ceremonial Pongala – the main ritual, which means "to boil over", involves the cooking of a delectable mix of rice, jaggery, ghee, and coconut to be offered to the deity. When devotees start preparing the Pongala timed by an official announcement from the temple, the entire city is engulfed by smoke and its streets are filled with fervour and enthusiasm.

The Kerala Police and Fire and Rescue Services make a coordinated effort to make sure the festival is conducted without incident. "This year, a total of 3,815 police personnel were deployed only for Attukal duty and 847 cameras in and around the city helped us monitor movement of crowd from our control centre apart from the police drones that are also operational during the festival time," said Nakul Deshmukh, Deputy Commissioner of Police-2, Thiruvananthapuram city. With the searing summer making an early beginning, devotees and staff on duty grappled with dehydration and heat exhaustion. Coming to the rescue of devotees this year were women fire fighters, who were inducted into the service for the first time in Kerala with firefighting traditionally remaining a male fiefdom. The ritual concluded without any major incident despite the heat warnings with 65 reported cases of heat exhaustion.

A sense of togetherness: Devotees waiting in queue to enter the temple.

Civic body gets 80 acres at Gollahalli for SWM project

BBMP has identified two more plots, one at Mandur in the east and another at Bidadi in the west

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has taken possession of 80 acres at Gollahalli in Bengaluru Rural district for its ambitious end-to-end Integrated Solid Waste Management System. The Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML), a company operating under the civic body, is now awaiting approval from the government of Karnataka for another plot at Doddaballapur.

The project recently faced a setback. No bidders participated in the tenders floated recently to establish four integrated waste management plants. The deadline ended in January.

The BSWML believes that now the project will gradually pick up pace. The company will revise the tender conditions and terms, besides other technical requirements, to refloat the tender. The BBMP has identified two more plots, one at Mandur in the east and another at Bidadi in the west. A senior BBMP official told *The Hindu* that about 80 acres of land at Gollahalli was handed over to the civic body by the Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprises (NICE). The Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) had provided land to NICE for the Bengaluru-Mysuru Infrastructure Corridor project.

BBMP garbage collection vehicles parked under Mysuru Road flyover in Bengaluru on Saturday. Garbage collection in the city was affected recently following a protest by residents in Kannur village panchayat limits. K. MURALI KUMAR

In 2023, the State Government had identified 554 acres of excess land, of which 80 acres are being given to the BBMP for this project. The officer said that the BBMP has generated the khata for the land.

The official said the company had finalised another plot at Doddaballapur, where Terra Firma is located, and sent the file to the government. About 50 acres around Terra Firma is government land. About 30 acres are owned by three private parties. The private owners are ready to sell the land for the project, the official said adding that the State Cabinet will take a final call on the same.

The official said the proposal is with Industry Minister M.B. Patil.

Citizen groups to urge Governor to not give assent to GBG Bill

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Opposition to the Greater Bengaluru Governance (GBG) Bill 2024, which was passed in the Legislative Assembly, is growing. The Bengaluru Town Hall, a citizen group that was recently formed to draft a shadow master plan for the city in association with urban planners and other experts, will meet the Governor on Sunday and submit a letter asking him to not give his assent to the Bill until it is changed to become constitutionally valid.

Members of Bengaluru Town Hall during a meeting on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Meeting

The group convened an emergency meeting on Saturday to discuss the Bill. The members of the Town Hall said that the speed at which the Bill was passed is alarming and requires immediate short-term actions to stall the government. They have also decided to take a multi-pronged legal approach and file around six to seven cases challenging the Bill in either the High Court or through an omnibus in the Supreme Court.

"Decentralisation is very important and healthy. But we are worried if what the government is planning to do is decentralisation or recentralisation, as the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) will have overriding power over all the other bodies. It sounds like they are putting officials who are accountable to the State for local administration rather than putting elected representatives in the council like in the mayoral system. They are violating the 74th Amendment of the Constitution," said actor-cum-activist Prakash Belawadi, who deliberated the meeting.

On the other hand, the Citizens Action Forum (CAF) also plans to submit a letter to the Governor on Monday, while their legal strategy is in advanced stages.

Ready to move legally

"We will write to the Governor by Monday and see what his reaction would be. If the Governor gives his assent to the Bill, then we are ready to file a case immediately. However, we will not be partnering with any other citizen groups," said Vijayan Menon from CAF.

The Bill has been facing opposition from the citizens ever since the idea was floated in 2024 by the government. In the last week, after the GBG Bill was passed in the Assembly, it was widely criticised for granting the GBA the powers to nominate four members to the ward committees. Many felt that this would pave for MLAs to install their loyalists in the ward committees instead of citizen representatives.

Changes made to Bill

Some changes were made to the Bill a few days later upon the suggestions of the Upper House and members of the Lower House. Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar clarified that the appointments to the ward committee will take place through a lottery system.

The Bill was passed to establish the GBA to supervise the development of Greater Bengaluru area. It also seeks to split the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahangara Palike (BBMP) into multiple corporations. However, citizens say that this approach to decentralisation brings more political involvement into the local bodies and is thereby unconstitutional.

Two booked for slashing stray dog

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Jayanagar police are on the lookout for two unidentified men who allegedly slashed the private part of a stray dog near Shalini ground in Jayanagar on Friday.

Based on the complaint by an animal activist, Vidyarani M., the police have charged the accused under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and Section 325 of BNS.

According to the police, the complainant noticed the stray dog identified as Ramu howling and writhing in pain during one of her visits to the ground. She said that the dog's private part was bleeding because of a cut injury from a sharp weapon. She then saw two men taking off in an autorickshaw.

She immediately rushed the dog to a veterinary hospital nearby before approaching the police to lodge a complaint. The police are gathering the CCTV camera footage from in and around the area to identify the accused.

KSHRC directs Home Dept. to pay ₹1 lakh compensation to man for illegal detention

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Detaining a national level bike racer at the station for several hours despite having bail proved costly for a police sub-inspector and his assistant. The Karnataka State Human Rights Commission, based on a complaint, found them guilty and directed the Home Department to pay a compensation of ₹1 lakh to the victim.

The commission also directed the department to recover the fine amount from the salary of the officials and initiate disciplinary action against the duo and submit the action taken report within a month.

The incident dated back to December 2022 in Pulakeshi Nagar, when the victim, Zubair Ali, and his brother Jabir Ali were involved in a civil dispute case. The duo had obtained bail from the 13th City Civil and Session Court and went to serve a copy of the bail to the station.

However, PSI, Ruman Pasha, and head constable R.K. Mulla allegedly detained Zubair Ali and locked him up at the station while his brother, Jabir Ali, walked out. Zubair, according to the complaint, was a national level bike racer and supposed to go to the US to attend an event. Due to the detention, he missed the flight.

Meanwhile Zubair's sister, who visited the station, found her brother in the lock-up, recorded this on her mobile phone, and lodged a complaint with the KSHRC alleging high handedness and harassment by the police officials.

Based on the complaint, both the officials were summoned, during which they claimed that they were not aware of the bail at the time of detention.

However, the commission concluded that the police officials overreacted to the civil dispute case and did not honour the bail granted by the court. This amounts to dereliction of duty and misuse of power and hence termed guilty, the commission said.

Elephant found dead at Arkalgud, cause not known

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

A tusker, aged about 25, was found dead at Nelaballi village in Arkalgud taluk in Hassan district on Saturday.

Agricultural land

The carcass was found in an agricultural land belonging to Venkate Gowda, a farmer.

The cause of death is not known. Officials have reached the spot.

The elephant is suspected to have died of electrocution.

The local people found the body of the animal and informed the police and the Forest Department officials.

The animal's death came to light within hours after a woman died in an elephant attack near Arehalli in neighbouring Belur taluk.

Bengalureans are now opting for experiential tourism

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

Bengalureans' preferences for weekend getaways are moving beyond resorts. According to recent trends observed by industry stakeholders and the Tourism Department, more people are choosing experiential tourism in farms and nurseries over regular resorts.

Since a few years, the Tourism Department has been trying to promote weekend tourism in and around the city, and multiple farms which offer an array of experiences are contributing to weekend tourism plans.

"In the post-pandemic period, people's interest in things like how their food is grown, the effort involved in farming and activities like sowing and harvesting has increased. From school children to urban families, we get a lot of visitors every week. In a month, we get around five families which stay with us while around 10 families come for day trips," said Raghavendra Bhat, owner of Chiguru Farms near Harohalli.

Not just families, but friend groups, especially those in their 50s or 60s, enjoy such tour packages. "For our friends' reunion, our group of 10 decided to visit a farm near Nelamangala instead of a resort. From the welcome drink to the thambuli they served us, the experiences sent us down a nostalgic lane which we had seen in our small town near Tumakuru back when we were young," shared Vidya Rao, a retired government employee.

Tourism Dept. has been trying to promote weekend tourism in and around the city since a few years and multiple farms are contributing to the tourism plans

Srivathsa Govindaraju, the owner of Chiguru Ecospace near Magadi, who has been offering these experiences for 15 years, said that he sees a renewed interest among urban people in recent times. "People are frustrated with the same kind of experiences provided in all resorts. They want hands-on experiences and hence they come here to go foraging with us for edible plants, medicinal plants and then cook with us among other activities," he explained.

Agri tourism policy

Under the Karnataka Tourism Policy 2025 - 2029, agricultural tourism, under which such experiences fall, gets special focus. A senior official said that the department is in the process of identifying many such farms and bring a framework for their functioning.

"We have seen that people like to go to vineries to see how the wine is made, food farms to learn more about their food and even dairy farms as those from younger generations have never seen the milking of a cow and hence do not know about where their milk comes from. There are people who do not know how mangoes are grown and that is why go to mango-farms on tours and some also like to go apiaries," the official said.

He added, "We are identifying farmers who can be contributors to our agricultural tourism policy, and we will soon have a detailed framework for them."

The stakeholders say that while the policy exists, it needs some changes for it to be beneficial. "The policy says that if we want to offer tourism, then the agricultural land should be converted into non-agricultural land. But that does not make sense as we still do full-fledged agricultural activities on the land. For the last four years, a group of us have been working with the policymakers and telling them what we need. We are awaiting the guidelines and we hope that they enable us to offer these experiences," Mr. Govindaraju said.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No.Y/E.29/2024-25/96 Dated: 10-03-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Description of work	Approx. Value
OHE modification for point 110 shifting at Chikjajur yard.	Rs. 10,58,421.78

Last date for submission of bids : **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 01-04-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/General Mysuru
PUB/844/AAF/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:
E-Tender Notice No.Y/E.29/2024-25/94 Dated: 07-03-2025

Description of work	Approx. Value
Provision and Improvement by generating Solar power for water pumping equipment at 10 locations Over Musuru Division.	Rs. 46,48,850/-

E-Tender Notice No.Y/E.29/2024-25/95 Dated: 07-03-2025

Description of work	Approx. Value
Provision of Solar Pumps at various locations Over Musuru Division.	Rs. 43,19,510/-

Last date for submission of bids for above: Tenders. **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 28-03-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/General Mysuru
PUB/843/AAF/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE
This notice is issued on behalf of my client **SMT.SRIVIDYA.K.S** to bring to the notice of the general public that the Original Possession Certificate issued by The BEMP Employees Co-Operative Housing Society Ltd., in the name of **Sri A.Putta Swamy,** vide No.1, dated 02.12.1992, possession dated 08.01.1999 in respect of Site No.988-A, formed in Sy.Nos.91/2, 99/1, 99/2, 99/3, 101/2, 140, 141, 142, 173, 174, 175, 178, 180, 181, 182, 184, 188, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 207, 208, 210, 211. 217/1B, 217/2, 218/1, 218/2, 219, 220, 223/1, 223/2, 223/3, 224/1, 224/2, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229/1, 229/2, 230 & 241, situated at **Halagevaderahalli Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore,** measuring **59.6 feet** and North to South **40 feet,** total measuring **264.44 sq. yards**, has been lost at the time of travelling.
All the persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said Possession Certificate.
If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within **7 days** from this present along with that Police Complaint is also given vide **Lost Report No. 1521898/2025, dated 15.03.2025.**
Y. Sowmya Yadav, Advocate
Samvruddhi Legal, # 83, Ground Floor, 5th 'A' Cross, 21st Main, J.P. Nagar 2nd Phase, Bangalore-78. **M : 9916343921**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Publication of Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/92/2025 Dated: 11-03-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Sl.	Item of Work	Approx. Value
1	Construction of ROB in lieu of LC No 138 at Km: 228/266 as 1x48m bow string girder (Railway Portion) as Railway span +18x18.71 m PSC girder and RCC Retaining wall (approach portion) between Ajjampur and Nagavangal stations and proposed constructions of LHS in lieu of LC No. 138 at Km: 228/266 as 1x5.5 x 2.5 m RCC box including electrical works (Composite Tender) **(Tender Ref. No. : ROB-LC138-AJP-NVF)**	Rs. 39,12,21,486/-
2	**Londa-Miraj Section**:-Construction of ROB at Km.613/800-900 in lieu of LC No 392 between Belagavi-Sambre stations as 1x36m Composite Girder clear span (Railway Portion) with 5x18.71m PSC Girder (NH end) and 6x18.71 m PSC girder (Mutaga end) and CC block in approaches between Belagavi and Sambre stations. (Composite Work) **(Tender Ref. No. : LD-MRJ-ROB-LC-392R)**	Rs. 32,31,48,990/-

Last date for submission of bids:**Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 04-04-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/847/AAF/PRB/SWR/2024-25 **Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/Works/Bengaluru Cantonment**
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-2 BENGALURU
4th Floor, BSNL Telephone House Building, Rajbhavan Road Bengaluru-560001.
RC NO.1332/2018
Indian Overseas Bank, Banashankari II Stage Branch, No.28, 27th Cross, Near Mono Type Bus Stop, Banashankari II Stage, Bangalore-560070.
...Certificate Holder Bank
Versus
M/s. K.K. Bricks and Others **...Certified Debtor/Defendants**
DEMAND NOTICE
1 **M/s. K.K. Bricks, a Proprietor concern of Mr. K.Ravindra, S/o Late Sri. Krishnappa,** R/at: No.51/1, Opp. Garden School, Subramanyapura Main Road, Chikkalsandra, Bangalore-560061.
2. **Mr. K.Ravindra, S/o Late Sri. Krishnappa,** R/at: No.51/1, Opp: Garden School, Subramanyapura Main Road, Chikkalsandra, Bangalore-560061.
3. **Mrs. Rajalakshmamma, W/o Late Sri. Krishnappa,** R/at; No.51/1, Opp: Garden School, Subramanyapura Main Road, Chikkalsandra, Bangalore-560061.
4. **Mr. Chandra K, S/o Late Sri. Krishnappa,** R/at: No.51/1, Opp: Garden School, Subramanyapura Main Road, Chikkalsandra, Bangalore-560061.
...Certified Debtor/Defendants
In View of the Recovery Certificate issued in **O.A.No.2459/2014** passed by the **Hon'ble Presiding Officer, DRT, Bangalore on dated 12/09/2015** an amount of **Rs.38,17,133/- (Rupees Thirty Eight Lakhs Seventeen Thousand One Hundred and Thirty Three Only)** is due against you along with interest and costs from date of filing of O.A.s till realization of the Recovery Certificate.
In addition to the sum aforesaid you will be liable to pay all charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and other process that may be taken for recovering the amount due.
You are hereby called upon to deposit the amount within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the recovery shall be made as per rules.
Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on **27th day of Dec, 2019.**
Note: Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below:
"Rule 16(1) where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debts Recovery Officer, nor shall any civil court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money.
2) Where an attachment has been made under this schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment".
3) You are also liable to disclose your assets both movable and immovable to this Tribunal along with the Income Tax Returns of last 5 year.
Recovery Officer,
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II,
Bengaluru

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Notice of E-Auction of Parking lot near old PRS Office at Hubballi
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites bidders fulfilling the requisite eligibility criteria as stipulated in the afore mentioned auction catalogue, to participate in the e-Auction for the under mentioned service.
Name of the work with its location
e-Auction Catalogue No. OLDPRSCBPMAR25
The Award of contract for a period of three (3) years, for the operation of **Combined Parking lot near Old PRS Office at Hubballi** Railway Stations.
E-Auction on 19-03-2025 at 11:30 Hrs.
For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in (E-Auction Portal)
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Hubballi
PUB/837/AAF/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ TRD, North Western Railway, Bikaner for & on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following work. **Tender Notice No.: 28-TRD-BKN-E-TENDER-2024-25. Name of work:** TRD modification work in c/w Engg. Works of Ballast depot, TWR, TBR SEJ, TTR, TRR in Anupgarh-Suratgarh-Lalgarh-Kolayat-Phalodi & Lalgarh-Ratangarh section over Bikaner Division. **Approx Cost of the work :** ₹ 1,00,60,511.1/-. **EMD/SD (Rupees):** ₹ 2,00,300/-. **Complete details of tender can be seen on Website No.: http://www.ireps.gov.in Date & time of closing of e-tender: 09.04.2025** at **15.00** hours. **Date & time of opening of e-tender:** After **15.00 Hrs** on **09.04.2025.**
314-AR/24
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OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Mrs. LAKSHMI SATHYANARAYANAN

Still can't believe it's been a year already. Not a day passes without you in our thoughts. We miss you very dearly!

Grieved by her sons
Vasanth & Jayanth (9677203243)
Remembered fondly by
Family Members

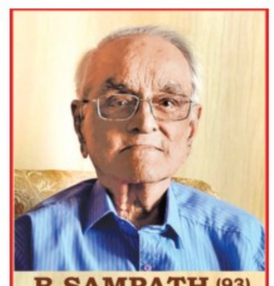
First Anniversary
16.03.2025

DR.S.SRINIVASA RAGHAVAN
HOD Maths Dept. and
ex Vice Principal, The New College

You are remembered every moment in our lives. Time flies away so soon but not a single day passes without you in our thoughts.

In fond remembrance
Family, Relatives, Colleagues and Friends
Contact Balaji :8610723966

DEATH



B.SAMPATH (93)
Retd.CRI DTD&P (Air)MOD.
Passed away on 09-03-2025 in Bangalore
Deeply Mourned by
Indira Sampath
Venkatesh Sampath
Sheila Venkatesh
Shruti Venkatesh
Siddharth Venkatesh
Mob: 99727 33099

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
Bengaluru: 98455 29981, 080 - 22071826
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DONATE EYES GIFT SIGHT

Taking charge: The fire officer on Attukal Pongala duty briefing his team.

In full swing: Devotees waiting in queue to enter the temple.

Auspicious moment: Devotees lighting lemon lamps (*naranga vilakku*) at the temple .

Pongala prayers: Women devotees pray while offering Pongala outside the Attukal Bhagavathy temple in Thiruvananthapuram.

Offering to the goddess: Women prepare 'Pongala' as an offering to the goddess at the Pournamikavu Temple in Venganoor.

In awe: A group of foreigners visiting the Attukal temple on the day of Pongala in Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday.

State government releases revised investigation manual for tackling cybercrimes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Home Minister G. Parameshwara on Saturday released the fourth edition of the Cybercrime Investigation Manual at CIDECODE-2025, a cybercrime probe summit held in the city. The updated manual is designed to be an essential resource for police officers, integrating the latest trends, tools, and methodologies to combat evolving cyber threats. The manual aims to standardise investigative approaches and strengthen enforcement mechanisms to tackle crimes in the digital space, according to the Minister.

Speaking at the summit, the Minister highlighted the importance of continuous training and technological advancements in law enforcement. "As cybercrime evolves, so must our resolve and capabilities. CIDECODE is a testament to State's leadership in this fight. This manual, alongside other initiatives reflects our unwavering commitment to building a secure digital Karnataka and a secure India," he said. The one-day summit was organised by the Centre for Cybercrime Investigation Training and Research along with the Karnataka CID, Infosys Foundation, and the Data Security Council of India.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, MAR. 16	
RISE 06:26	SET 18:30
RISE 20:09	SET 07:31
MONDAY, MAR. 17	
RISE 06:26	SET 18:30
RISE 20:55	SET 08:05
TUESDAY, MAR. 18	
RISE 06:25	SET 18:30
RISE 21:44	SET 08:42

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	35	23
Mysuru	35	19
Bengaluru	35	19

Bengaluru Today
35°C Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be warm with uneasy afternoon. Night also will be pleasant. Dry weather to prevail.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
34°C The weather will be dry. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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(No.R79/MKU/ADC/2025-2026)

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for National Level admission to P.G. Programmes (Entrance / Non-Entrance), Certificate, Diploma, Higher Diploma and P.G. Diploma Programmes offered by the Schools/Departments/Centres of Madurai Kamaraj University for the academic year 2025-2026. Prospectus, Application & Fee details for all the Programmes are available in the University website: www.mkuniversity.ac.in Candidates can also apply through online using link **https://admissions.mkuniversity.ac.in**

PG Programmes 2 Years (Entrance)

1.	M.Sc. Biotechnology	5.	M.Sc. Physics
2.	M.Sc. Chemistry	6.	M.B.A. (Residential Programme)
3.	M.Sc. Earth Remote Sensing & Geo-Information Technology	7.	M.B.A. Entrepreneurship
		8.	M.B.A. Hospital Administration
		9.	M.C.A.
4.	M.Sc. Mathematics	10.	M. P.Ed. (NCTE Approved)

PG Programmes 2 Years (Non- Entrance)

1.	M.Sc. Biochemistry	19.	M.A. Economics
2.	M.Sc. Computer Science with Specialization in Data Analytics	20.	M.A. English
		21.	M.A. English Language Studies
3.	M.Sc. Criminology and Criminal Justice	22.	M.A. Folklore
4.	M.Sc. Electronics & Instrumentation	23.	M.A. French
5.	M.Sc. Environmental Sciences	24.	M.A. History
6.	M.Sc. Film and Electronic Media Studies	25.	M.A. Journalism and Mass Communication
7.	M.Sc. Genomics	26.	M.A. Kannada
8.	M.Sc. Geography	27.	M.A. Linguistics
9.	M.Sc. Marine Biology	28.	M.A. Malayalam Language & Literature
10.	M.Sc. Mathematical Economics	29.	M.A. Philosophy & Religion
11.	M.Sc. Microbial Gene Technology	30.	M.A. Political Science
12.	M.Sc. Microbiology	31.	M.A. Sanskrit
13.	M.Sc. Psychology	32.	M.A. Sociology
14.	M.Sc. Visual Communication	33.	M.A. Tamil
15.	M.B.A. Tourism and Hotel Management	34.	M.A. Telugu
16.	M.Com.	35.	M.A. Women's Studies
17.	M.Ed. (NCTE Approved)	36.	M.Lib.I.Sc.
18.	M.A. Administrative Studies*		

Integrated Programme (for those who have passed 12th std)

1. M.B.A Tourism and Hotel Management (Five Year Integrated)

Certificate/Diploma/Higher Diploma/P.G. Diploma Programmes

1. Certificate Programme in Linguistics / Malayalam /Sanskrit / Telugu
2. Diploma in Linguistics / Malayalam / Telugu
3. Higher Diploma in French
4. P.G. Diploma in Industrial Metal Finishing / Scientific Yoga, Meditation and Holistic Health / Saiva Siddhanta Philosophy / GIS and Remote Sensing Applications

Dates to remember	**All PG Programmes Certificate / Diploma / Higher Diploma / P.G. Diploma Programmes**
Prospectus and online Application available in the website from	**05.03.2025**
Last date for submission of Application	**03.04.2025**
Date of Entrance Examination for PG (Entrance) Programmes	**Date of Entrance exam will be intimated later to the applicants through their email**

*(Syllabus based on UPSC Preliminary and TNPSC Group – I Exam)
Contact Numbers: 0452-2458471 Extn : 218, 293. E-mail ID: infoadmissioncell@mkuniversity.org
Madurai - 625 021
Date: 03.03.2025. DIPR/273/DIS/2025 REGISTRAR i/c

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- B.Com / B.Com (Hons)
- B.Com (Professional Accounting)

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SCHOOL OF LAW
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*PG Program

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ISSN 0971 - 751X

Three labourers killed in drunken brawl

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Three labourers were beaten to death by another group of labourers over a drunken brawl in Thindlu Gate in Sarjapur on Saturday.

The deceased have been identified as Radhesham, Anshu Kumar, and Deepu, aged between 19 to 22. The deceased were plumbers and working at an under-construction residential complex.

According to the police, the victims were playing Holi on the third floor of the site where they were staying. The police said the deceased were drunk and confronted by the accused, who had a heated argument over a trivial row. While two of them were killed on the spot, the third one was declared dead on arrival at the hospital.

The Sarjapura police have registered a case of murder and formed a special team to track down the accused who are on the run.

Ugadi Mahotsavam at Srisaila Devasthanam

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Srisaila Devasthanam in Nandyal district, Andhra Pradesh, will be celebrating Ugadi Mahotsavam from March 27 to 31. The festival is expected to attract pilgrims from Karnataka and parts of Maharashtra. The temple will be facilitating "Sparsha Darshanam" of Mallikarjuna Swamy, for pilgrims from March 17 to 31.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public is hereby informed that my client is intending to purchase the property described in the schedule hereunder from its owners Sri.CHANDRA.M, Aged about 43 years, S/o.Late Muniyappa C, residing at # 13, Madaku hosahalli,Nandi, Chikkaballapur District, Karnataka 562103 and his family members. Any person/s having any claim over the schedule property may lodge his/her/their objections or claims in writing with all documentary evidence with regard to such claims, to the undersigned within 15 days hereof, failing which my client will proceed to complete the purchase. Any objections/claims received thereafter will not be entertained and not binding upon my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of immovable property being Agricultural land bearing Survey No.21, measuring to an extent 1 Acre (One Acre), situated at Modakuhosahalli Village, Nandi Gram Panchayath, Nandi Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk and District and bounded on the : EAST BY : Land belonging to Byanna and C.Muniyappa, WEST BY: Land belonging to Sanjeev Mukerjee, NORTH BY: Government Gutta, SOUTH BY: Land belonging to Jabbar

C.R.PRATHIMA, Advocate,
36, Nele, 2nd Floor, 2nd cross, Vinayakanagara layout, Gubbalala Main road, Subramanyapura post, Bangalore-560 061.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Materials Management Department
Corrigendum to Auction Programme March' 2025
Notice No:03/2025

e-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous scrap, Non-Ferrous scrap, other Misc scrap, condemned Wagon, Coaches & Locos, Scrap Rails and other Permanent Way scrap material

E-auction conducted by: MAS Division

Additional Auction date included in March'25 auction schedule is on 28.03.2025

Material for auction: The details of items to be sold in e-auction will be available in catalogue **www.ireps.gov.in** website.

All other auctions scheduled for March 25 remains unaltered

For detailed terms and conditions and downloading of catalogue please visit our web-site **http://www.ireps.gov.in ->E-Auction->Sale->Live Auctions.**

Principal Chief Materials Manager

Government of Karnataka
Rural Drinking Water Supply & Sanitation Division, Davanagere

No.EE/RWS& SD/DVG/AE-1/MVS O&M/2022-23/1364
Dated:- 14/03/2025

Short term E-Procurement Tender Notification (2nd Call)

Tender is invited through e-procurement for the works of Honnali i under MVS (O&M) in Two cover system by the Executive Engineer, RDW & S Division Davanagere on behalf the Governer of Karnataka from registered Contractors in PWD and also registered in e-Portal cell Item rate tender as per standard bid documents KW only through e-Procurement in order to enahance the transparency in the tendering procces and hence there will be no physical form of tender. Last date for submission of tenders on Dated:24/03/2025 till 5.00 PM. For further details can be obtained from this office Tel No:08192-262126 or through website http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Name of work:- (1) Operation and Maintenance of Multi village water supply scheme to Hlregonigere and other 08 villages in Honnali Taluk, Davangere District.
Estimated Cost (In lakhs):- 68.10
(2) Operation and Maintenance of Multi village water supply scheme to Masadi and other 02 villages in Honnali Taluk, Davangere District. Estimated Cost (In lakhs):-45.80

ಮಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿವಿಜಿ/852/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2024–25

Sd/- Executive Engineer
RWS Division, Davanagere

HUBLI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

(Wholly owned Govt. of Karnataka undertaking)
Superintending Engineer (Ele), Tendering & Procurement,
Navanagar, P.B. Road, Hubballi - 580025.
Phone: 0836-2322966, Fax: 0836-2324307
e-Mail: seetp.hescom@gmail.com / seetp@hescom.co.in
Corporate Identity Number (CIN) : U31401KA2002SGC030437

No: HESCOM/SEE(T&P)/E-7/AEE-1/2024-25/CYS-9609 Dated: 15-03-2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Karnataka Public Procurement Portal - KPPP Only)

The Superintending Engineer (Ele), T & P, HESCOM, Hubballi invites TenderS in Two Parts (**Part-I:** Techno-Commercial Bid and **Part-II:** Price Bid) through KPP Portal as follows

1	Material	**Procurement of 01 No. of Van Mountable underground Cable Fault Locator System with Vehicle for Locating Fault Suitable for Locating Fault on Low / Medium Power Cables upto 33KV to HESCOM.**
2	EMD Amount	**Rs. 5,55,000/-**
3	IND No.	**HESCOM/2024-25/IND0090**
4	Date of Publish	**15-03-2025, 4.30 PM**
5	Last Date for Submission of Bid	**02-04-2025, 5.00 PM**
6	Date of Opening Techno Commercial Bid	**03-04-2025, 5.15 PM**

For further details visit the Website:
https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 15-03-2025.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele),
Tendering & Procurement,
HESCOM, Hubballi.

DIPR/Dharwad/1095/Adverto/2024-25

Government of Karnataka
KARNATAKA RESIDENTIAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS SOCIETY
(A Government of Karnataka Organisation)
No.8, MSB-01, 6th & 7th Floor, Cunningham Road, Bangalore-560 052. Tel: 080-22283366, Fax: 080-22262288

KREIS/INFR/OTH/131/2024-ADMN /E-160705 **Date:15.03.2025**

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-Tendering Only)

Tenders have been invited on **15.03.2025** for Supply of Stitched Uniforms for Residential Schools functioning under the Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society across Karnataka. Through e-Portal vide Indent No: **KREIS/2024-25/IND0052** and the last date for receipt of tenders is **15.04.2025.** The details may be viewed in the **http://e-procurement.gov.in.** website.

Sd/-
Joint Director(Admin) and Tender Inviting Authority
KREIS, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/5688/Zen/2024-25

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, Sarvgnanagar Division, 7th Floor, P.U. Building, M.G. Road. Bengaluru-560 001.

No.EE(SGN)/KPPP/Tend/18/2024-25 **Date:15.03.2025**

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK KPP Portal only) **(Two Cover System)**

The Executive Engineer, Sarvgnanagar Division, East Zone invites tenders from Class-I eligible Contractors registered with BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD / Raiways / MES/National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the construction work detailed in the table below:

Sl. No.	Name of Works
1	Providing and Installation of Machineries for Dhobi Ghat, Lazar Road, M.S. Nagar, Sarvagnanagar Constituency. **Est.Cost :** Rs. 200.00 Lakhs, **EMD:** Rs. 3.00 Lakh (1 Lakh through e-payment & Balance Rs. 2,00,000/- through BG/FDR).
2	Additional and Balance Constructions to Multispeciality Hospital at HBR Layout. **Est.Cost :** Rs. 500.00 Lakhs, **EMD:** Rs. 7,50,000/- (1 Lakh through e-payment & Balance Rs. 6,50,000/- through BG/FDR).

1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP portal **from 20.03.2025, 4:00 p.m. 2)** Pre bid meeting: **26.03.2025 at 4:00 p.m. 3)** Last date for submission of tender document : **01.04.2025 upto 4.00 p.m. 4)** Date of opening of technical bids: **02.04.2025 at 4.30 p.m.** Further details can be accessed from GoK e-procurement website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact at : 080-22485867 or contact undersigned office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Sarvagnanagar Division.

भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान भोपाल

(शिक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार द्वारा स्थापित)
Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Bhopal
(Estb. by Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)

Advt. No.: IISERB/DOAA/2025/01 March 16, 2025

Admission for Academic Year 2025-26

Applications are invited for the semester commencing from August 2025.

Programme	Disciplines
Ph.D. National/ International Students	**Natural Sciences Stream:** Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Mathematics, Physics. **Engineering Sciences Stream:** Chemical Engineering, Data Science and Engineering (DSE), Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS). **Humanities and Social Sciences Stream:** Economic Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences (Philosophy).
Integrated Ph.D.	**Natural Sciences Stream:** Mathematics and Physics.
MA Programme	**Humanities and Social Sciences Stream:** Liberal Arts Programme.

Details of qualification, eligibility, application form and application procedure are available on https://www.iiserb.ac.in/admission

Last Date for Submission of Application: April 15, 2025
(Updates, if any, shall be notified on the Institute website)

अधिष्ठाता शैक्षणिक

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture,
East Zone, Bengaluru-560 001
No: SADH/(EAST)TENDER/01/2024-25 **Dated: 15.03.2025**

LETTER OF INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Single & Two Cover System) (STD KW-1, KW-2, KW-3 & KW-4)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (East) Zone, (Referred to as Employer in these documents) invites Tenders to Implement in accordance with KTPP rules 2000, from eligible and experienced Person/Agencies/Firms (Referred to as Tenderers in these documents) registered in Labour Department for Maintenance of Parks.

Sl No	Name of the Works/Category
	MAINTENANCE OF PARKS
1	Ward No-66 Chamundinagara (Others) Estimate Cost: ₹.358000, EMD: ₹.8,950
2	Ward No-67 Ganganagara (Others) Estimate Cost: ₹.1162000, EMD: ₹.29,050
3	Ward No-68 Jayachamarajendranagara (Others) Estimate Cost: ₹.1742000, EMD: ₹.43,550
4	Ward No-70 Kushalnagara (Others) Estimate Cost: ₹.122000, EMD: ₹.3,050
5	Ward No-72 Devara Jeevanahalli (SC) Estimate Cost: ₹.820000, EMD: ₹.10,250
6	Ward No-73 S.K Garden (Others) Estimate Cost: ₹.761000, EMD: ₹.19,025
7	Ward No-74 Sagayipuram (SC) Estimate Cost: ₹.1286000, EMD: ₹.16,075
8	Ward No-79 Kadugondanahalli (SC) Estimate Cost: ₹.414000, EMD: ₹.5,175
9	Ward No-80 Kacharakanahalli (Others) Estimate Cost: ₹.1626000, EMD: ₹.40,650
10	Ward No-81 Kammanahalli (Others) Estimate Cost: ₹.699000, EMD: ₹.17,475
11	Ward No-84 Lingarajapuram (Others) Estimate Cost: ₹.450000, EMD: ₹.11,250
12	Ward No-85 Maruthiseva nagara (CAT-I) Estimate Cost: ₹.1500000, EMD: ₹.18,750
13	Ward No-110 C V Raman Nagara (CAT-II(A) Estimate Cost: ₹.191000, EMD: ₹.2,388
14	Ward No-112 New Thippasandra (Others) Estimate Cost: ₹.624000, EMD: ₹.15,600
15	Ward No-115 Konena Agrahara (Others) Estimate Cost: ₹.620000, EMD: ₹.15,500
16	Ward No-116 Ramaswamypalya (Others) Estimate Cost: ₹.641000, EMD: ₹.16,025
17	Ward No-119 Shivajinagara (Others) Estimate Cost: ₹.65000, EMD: ₹.1,625
18	Ward No-120 Bharathinagara (Others) Estimate Cost: ₹.95000, EMD: ₹.2,375
19	Ward No-121 Halasuru (Others) Estimate Cost: ₹.216000, EMD: ₹.5,400
20	Ward No-166 Shanthinagara (Others) Estimate Cost: ₹.464000, EMD: ₹.11,600
21	Ward No-170 Jogupalya (CAT-II(A) Estimate Cost: ₹.818000, EMD: ₹.10,225
22	Ward No-172 Agaram (Others) Estimate Cost: ₹.1396000, EMD: ₹.34,900
	MAINTENANCE OF BOREWELLS
23	Hebbala Assembly Constituency Parks (ST) Estimate Cost: ₹.1800000, EMD: ₹.22,500
24	Pulikeshinagara Assembly Constituency Parks (CAT-II(A) Estimate Cost: ₹.800000, EMD: ₹.10,000
25	Sarvajnanagara Assembly Constituency Parks (CAT-II(A) Estimate Cost: ₹.1400000, EMD: ₹.17,500
26	C V Ramannagara Assembly Constituency Parks (SC) Estimate Cost: ₹.2000000, EMD: ₹.20,000
27	Shivajinagara Assembly Constituency Parks (Others) Estimate Cost: ₹.1000000, EMD: ₹.25,000
28	Shanthinagara Assembly Constituency Parks (SC) Estimate Cost: ₹.2000000, EMD: ₹.20,000

Calendar of Events: **(1)** Date of Notification is **15.03.2025. (2)** Tender can be downloaded from **18.03.2025. (3)** Pre bid meeting on **19.03.2025** at **11:30** am. **(4)** Tender Closing date **24.03.2025** at **4:30** pm **(5)** Technical Bid Opening Date **25.03.2025** at **11:30** am. **(6)** Financially Bid Opening Date After approval of Technical Bid.

Sd/-
Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (East Zone)

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

Office of the Executive Engineer,PRE Division
Jawahar Road Koppal 583231 ,Karnataka . Email: eepredkpl@gmail.com,

No:EE:PRED:DN:KPL:/DB/TENDER/2024-25 / 3129 **Date: 13.03.2025**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (CALL–3)

On behalf of The Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Koppal, invites item rates tender through kppp/gem in one & two cover systems, Standard Bid Document KW-1,2,3 & 4 under head of account 2022-23 RIDF Trench – 28 of Gangavathi talukof Koppal district PWD and PRE Department from eligible registered contractors . This scheme is fully funded by the Government of Karnataka . For more information contact above the office. Eligible contractors participate online by entering into kppp portal. http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal/gem.

General instructions :- 1.Contractors participate in all tenders online only. 2.Pre-qualification documents should be uploaded by scanning all certificates & other concerned documents online only. 3.Pre-requisite EMD have to be pay online as per mentioned in eproc-portal.

For more information, contractors need to consult to below signed official, officer, contractors may get the information by going through. http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal. This notified works can be downloaded in http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal from dated 14.03.2025 Tender Processing Fees: **As per E-Procurement.** Download of Schedule-B in Eproc Portal: **From 15.03.2025 time after 10.00 AM upto 22.03.2025 time 16.00 Hours.** Tender Receipt last dates: **From 15.03.2025,time 10.00 AM upto 22.03.2025 Time 16.00 hrs.** Technical Bid open date and time (Both Technical & Financial bids are opened as same date for KW 1 & KW 2 ,KW-3 works): **24.03.2025 in office hours.** Financial Bid open date and time: **For KW 4 After getting Technical approval from competent authority, bid will be opened**
2022-23 RIDF –TRENCH – 28: Name of work:: CONSTRUCTION OF ROOMS TO GHPS NANDIHALLI VILLAGE IN GANGAVATHI TQ (INDENT NO. 6394 CALL-3). **Category:** GEN. **Amount put to tender (in Lks):** 157.27. **EMD:** 200000/-. **Class:** Class I. **Duration of period:** 09 months

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PRE Division Koppal

DIPR/Koppal/863/KSMCA-2024-25

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
 # 49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road
Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383 website : www.kiadb.in

IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-55/1045/2024-25 **Date: 14.03.2025**

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item Rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below:

Name of the Works : Procuring and laying of DWC pipes and construction of new Manholes under Apparel park phase-2 & Rectification of old UGD line, restoration of damaged Manholes and replacement of damaged pipeline at Doddaballapura Industrial Area, Apparel Park Phase I, Bengaluru Rural District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **28.03.2025** upto **4.30 pm.**
Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/5706/Zen/2024-25

Classifieds

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SPACE STRUCTURES PRIVATE LIMITED

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PRE ENGINEERED BUILDINGS

BUSINESS OFFERS

BUSINESS

MACHADO HOSPITALITY

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- *Management consultancy / financial advice to existing hotels desirous of the said services and new hotel launches*
- *Operational and Management Support*
- *Technical Assistance to Hotels during Pre-Opening / Project stage in terms of Hotel Planning, Design and Project Coordination*
- *Operating Hotels on a Management Tie Up*
- *End-to-end solutions on a consultancy basis for all types of hospitality-related projects*
- *Operate small to medium sized hotels and restaurants on medium/long term lease*

Interested parties may kindly forward necessary queries/details to machado.joseph@gmail.com or WhatsApp/Call 97640 24477

BUSINESS FOR SALE

KANCHIPURAM RUNNING CBSE School (KG–12) for Sale. kanchisale@gmail.com

CONSULTANTS

LIASONING WORK for NPA Cases, DRT, NCLT, Contracts, Property, Legal matters.Contact: By Mail : robinsonbritto0303@gmail.com, Mob: 7904262142

FINANCE

ALL TYPE Finance NPA Take Over 3rd party Collateral Arranged Cibil No Issue Low interest. Ct: 7305912765

FINANCE AGAINST Properties Industries & abroad Projects. Ph:09344260264

GENERAL

THE TRAVANCORE SUGARS & CHEMICALS LTD.
(TSCL)
(A Kerala Government Company)
Valanjavattom P.O., Thiruvalla, Kerala - 689104
Tele: Office: 0469-2610711, 2610712, 2610446
Email: travancoresugars65@gmail.com
Website: www.travancoresugars.com

APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANT AT TSCL

Applications are invited for appointment of consultant at Travancore Sugars & Chemicals LTD. The last date of submission of application is 17-03-2025. For more details please visit company website: www.travancoresugars.com

Place : Thiruvalla
Date : 14.03.2025

(Sd), Chairperson & Managing Director

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EDUCATIONAL

VACANCIES

WANTED: WELL experienced Principal, Social ,Computer, Sanskrit and Maths teachers for a reputed CBSE and State Board School near Hoskote, Karnataka . Good salary and accommodation will be provided .
Contact: 9901009059, 8861078504.
hr.isrigroup@gmail.com

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KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS
MONTESSORI TRAINED
Female only Qual: Any Degree

PRIMARY TEACHERS (Classes I to V) Female only
Qual: Any Degree –For all Subjects
Salary: 15,000 to 25,000

MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS (Classes VI to VIII)
Qual : UG/PG WITH B.ED
Subjects : English & Science
Salary: 15,000 to 30,000

SECONDARY TEACHERS
Subjects: SOCIAL SCIENCE, BIOLOGY, MATHEMATICS, PHYSICS
Qual : PG WITH B.ED &
5 years experience in CBSE
Salary Rs.30,000 to 40,000

SENIOR SECONDARY TEACHERS
Subjects: English, Accountancy
Qual : PG WITH B.ED &
5 years experience in CBSE
Salary: Rs.30,000 to 50,000

NEET & JEE TEACHERS
Subjects: Physics, Mathematics
Qual : PG WITH B.ED &
5 years experience in CBSE
Salary: Rs.75,000 to 1,20,000
(based on previous result)

Female Only P.E.Ts (Specialization)
Volleyball, Basketball, Kho-Kho, Cricket, Athletics And Swimming Coach
Qual: B.PEd.,/ M.PEd../NIS
Salary: Rs.18,000 to 30,000

* Preference will be given to the Teachers with experience in CBSE Schools.
* Salary will be fixed based on experience.
* Come along with original testimonials, 2 Passport size Photographs, Aadhaar card Xerox and Resume for immediate appointment.

Eligible candidates may apply through this Q.R Code

Walk-in Interview:
22.03.2025 & 23.03.2025
(Saturday& Sunday)
Time : 10.00 am to 02.00 pm

ROYAL INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
SENIOR SECONDARY - CBSE
(Erode to school 18 kms),
B.Komarapalayam,
Mobile : 84286 69996, 90922 22909
E-mail: royalstaff2009@gmail.com
Website : www.royalcbse.com

Ranya Rao claims innocence, alleges ill-treatment by investigating officers

She alleges that after being apprehended, she was slapped 10 to 15 times by officers

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

In a letter to the Additional Director General (ADG) of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), gold smuggling accused Ranya Rao has alleged misconduct and ill-treatment by the investigating officers.

Rao penned the letter from inside the Central Prison at Parappana Agrahara in Bengaluru where she is in judicial custody.

She was allegedly found carrying over 14 kg of gold when she arrived at Kempegowda International airport from Dubai, and was arrested on March 2.

Ranya Rao

In a letter written on March 6 submitted through prison authorities, the contents of which were accessed by *The Hindu*, she has alleged procedural violations and personal grievances stemming from the case against her.

In the letter, she claimed that while she landed from Dubai, the authorities implicated her in the case without sufficient evidence. She alleged that her detention from inside the aircraft was carried out unfairly, with officials failing to properly verify the facts before making her arrest.

Violation of norms

Rao further stated that after being apprehended, she was subjected to treatment that violated legal and ethical norms. She alleged, "I was slapped 10 to 15 times by the officers, and forced to sign 40-page typed papers admitting to smuggling."

She claimed that the circumstances surrounding her arrest were unjust, and she was neither involved in nor aware of the illegal activities she is accused of. Moreover, she claimed that the officials handling her case ignored key evidence and failed to follow due process.

Impartial inquiry

Appealing to the ADG for a fair investigation, Rao has requested a thorough review of her case and appropriate action against any officers found guilty of misconduct. She has urged transparency in the proceedings and emphasised her willingness to cooperate with a lawful and impartial inquiry.

Tariff instability hinders KPTCL's InvITs venture bid

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

Tariff instability will be one of the main challenges faced by the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) as it plans to bring in private entities into the State's transmission network, Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) funds, for the first time.

InvITs are investment vehicles that allow investors to buy and operate infrastructure projects. For instance, the transmission lines or substations of KPTCL can be put up in InvITs and private entities can invest in them for a regular income in the form of dividends.

The assets of KPTCL are governed by the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) and are subject to potential regulatory changes despite their predictable revenue streams. It will also need KERC's approval to include its Regulatory Tariff Mechanism assets (the tariff of such assets is decided by the regulator) for inclusion in InvITs.

"Ensuring tariff stability and visibility is critical for securing in-principal approvals, and hence KPTCL will engage with KERC to explore necessary regulatory adjustments," said Pankaj Kumar Pandey, managing director, KPTCL.

The other challenge is that of the delays KPTCL faces when it comes to payments from electricity supply companies (escoms), which, according to its estimations, are around 1 year to 1.5 years on average. Mr. Pandey suggests the setting up of an escrow account for escoms' payments to mitigate liquidity risks and ensure uninterrupted cash flow.

KPTCL has proposed the creation of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) and then transferring of eligible assets into it and offering units of the InvIT to institutional investors.

The demerger of some assets to move them into the SPV and operational considerations, which include setting up a merchant banker, legal counsel, etc., are other potential challenges faced by KPTCL.

The corporation manages assets worth ₹20,000 crore, out of which it plans to monetise 20%, which is expected to generate investments up to ₹5,000 crore to ₹6,000 crore.

"The proposed monetisation model offers KPTCL an opportunity to raise capital by leveraging its operational assets and their future revenue streams. The funds raised could be utilised to fuel further growth in transmission infrastructure across the State," said Mr. Pandey.

While the proposal awaits government approval, KPTCL has already initiated discussions with Powergrid Infrastructure Investment Trust to achieve its asset monetisation goals.

Experts said it shows that the government is distinctly inclining towards privatisation of the sector.

"As this is a new model, there are many details that need to be worked out. But the government could have considered the suggestion of the Gurucharan Committee about merging the five escoms and KPTCL and creating a holding company and then monetising their assets, as it could have given them a bigger asset base," said M.G. Prabhakar, former advisory member, KERC.

Khandre orders capture of elephants causing trouble

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Following the death of a woman in an elephant attack in Belur taluk of Hassan district on Friday, Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre, on Saturday, held an emergency meeting with senior officers and instructed them to capture three trouble-causing elephants in Hassan immediately.

The Minister directed the officers to initiate preparations to capture the elephants that had been roaming in parts of Arehalli and Bikkodu in Belur taluk.

Four persons have died in elephant attacks in the last two months in Hassan district.

Local people have staged multiple protests demanding the capture and relocation of all elephants roaming in parts of Alur, Belur, Sakleshpur, and Arakalgud taluks.

The Minister visited the trouble-hit area on March 3 and interacted with the local people.

From Page One

Ranya case: DGP sent on compulsory leave

The inquiry committee, headed by Additional Chief Secretary Gaurav Gupta probing the misuse of police protocol services and the possible role of Mr. Ramachandra Rao in the case, began its investigation on Friday. The committee is learnt to have served a notice on Mr. Rao to appear before them to record his statement.

The investigating agencies have also questioned constables at the airport who helped Ranya and provided escort to pass through the green channel without checks .

Bail plea

Meanwhile, Ranya Rao approached the City Civil and Sessions Court for bail and the matter is likely to come up on Monday.

The Special Court for Economic Offences on Friday dismissed the bail petition of Ranya Rao. The DRI had objected to her bail plea, arguing that the case possibly involved an international smuggling syndicate and releasing her on bail may cause a setback to the probe as the other accused, yet to be identified, may close their trails and lead to destruction of evidence.

DRI officials, meanwhile, continued to probe her financial transactions and bank accounts and the companies she owned.

Sources said there was suspicion that Ranya Rao along with her husband and friends floated shell companies to cover up their illegal activities.

Petition submitted to CM for protection of vulnerable tribal groups

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Adivasi Hakkugala Samanvaya Samiti on Saturday submitted a petition to the Chief Minister to provide basic resources to protect the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) of Koraga and Hasalaru in the Western Ghats region of the State.

The Koragas are predominantly in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts while Hasalaru are in Hassan, Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru, and Kodagu districts. The petition stated that the Koraga population, which was 12,000 in 2011 census, has come down to 8,000. "It is necessary for the government to study the Koraga community which is at the brink of extinction and take steps to protect the community," the petition noted.

The Samiti also highlighted that there has been an increase in the number of Koragas who are facing serious health conditions in the backdrop of the government not releasing grants for the Koraga Health Budget in the last two years. The members demanded the restoration of these health grants for the community.

Meanwhile, the Halasaru community has asked for expansion of the free nutrition programme to the members of the community living in Shivamogga and Chikkamagaluru, provision of housing facilites, hakku patra (document of rights) for tribes who live in forest areas, and setting up welfare programmes for those who work in coffee estates among others.

World Consumer Day celebrations on Tuesday

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Bengaluru Branch Office is organising World Consumer Rights Day celebration on Tuesday. This meeting intends to highlight the importance of consumer protection. The event will be held at the Training Hall, BIS Branch Office, Peenya.

Move to appoint Professors of Practice in govt. engineering colleges opposed

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Educationists have pointed out that the move will amount to lateral entry hence violating State government recruitment rules. GETTY IMAGES

Instead of appointing Professors of Practice, faculty members working in colleges should be given appropriate training in industries, says principal of a government engineering college

Educationists and student organisations have opposed the announcement regarding appointment of professional subject experts as "Professors of Practice" in government engineering colleges. They say it amounts to lateral entry and violates State government recruitment rules. Besides, it is against the reservation policy, they argue.

Professional experts

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said in the Budget speech that Professors of Practice will be appointed in 16 government engineering colleges to imprat students practical knowledge and there by enhance the latter's employability. Higher Education Department sources said steps have been taken to employ professional experts for about three to four years or for the full term.

The National Education Policy (NEP-2020) and University Grants Commission allow industry experts to teach full-time or part-time, even without a Ph.D or National Eligibility Test qualification, as Professors of Practice, through lateral entry in universities and colleges. Ajay Kamath, State Secretary of All India Democratic Students Organization (AIDSO), said "The government, which has opposed NEP-2020, has constituted a commission to bring a 'State Education Policy', and the final report will be submitted in a few days. In such a situation, it is ridiculous that the Chief Minister has made the announcement regarding 'Professors of Practice'. This only shows Congress and BJP are essentially the same."

Educationist Shripad Bhat said the appointment of PoPs is against government recruitment rules. "There is no clarity on whether the appointment is for a short term or as permanent faculty. Roster policy is not followed in any appointments made through lateral entry. Therefore, such appointments are against the reservation policy," he alleged.

He said, the government has opposed the draft UGC (Minimum qualification for appointment and promotion of teachers and academic staff in universities and colleges and measure for the maintenance of standards in Higher Education) Regulations 2025, which allows appointment of non-academic persons or industry heads to the post of Vice Chancellors through lateral entry and it passed a resolution against it. "Then, how can appointment of Professors of Practice through lateral entry instead of filling the vacant posts be justified?" he asked.

Training for teachers

The principal of a government engineering college said instead of appointing Professors of Practice, faculty members already working in colleges should be given appropriate training in industries. "Let us organise training programmes for our faculties every month on the development of new innovations and technologies. Then, they will be able to impart practical knowledge too," he said.

'It will benefit students'

On the other hand, former Vice Chancellor of Tumkur University, A.H. Rajasab said many private universities have appointed Professors of Practice in engineering colleges. "These are not permanent appointments. They will help in equipping students with modern technology. Professors of Practice know how to run the industry. It is a good thing to impart their knowledge to the students. However, appointments must be impartial," he said.

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33/F, SC, Hindu, MBA. IT professional. 12 LPA. Looking for a suitable match. 9561343825.

WARM, ATTRACTIVE, 37, 155cm, well–educated professional, cultured family. Seeks compatible groom. Religion/caste no bar. Call/WA 9345634365.

US based, 26/167, Wheatish, BC, Tamil RC Girl Doctorate in OT. Seeks US based Professionals. Contact: 9952628665

HINDU DEVENDRA Kula Vellalar girl 29 yrs, 153cm, 65kg, B.Tech (IT) CIT Coimbatore, Uthradam Natchathiram.Currently preparing for TNPSC exams. Father Retd GM IOC, Mother–Home maker seeks suitable alliance from persons in good position and clean habits. Contact:6379936273 / 7550307487.

DIVORCEE

HINDU TELUGU girl 29/154, issueless divorcee, short marriage B.Tech, MBA working in MNC at Mumbai seeks young 30–34yrs well settled professional issueless divorcee from India/abroad Caste language no bar. Contact 9640335179 parents.

DIVORCEE B.TECH MBA 32/169CM very fair thuluvavella having 6 year old boy Contact. 9884177643

DOCTOR

Mudaliar Bride DM Cardiology 33/164 Kettai Seeks Any Mudaliar Doctor Groom With MD/MS CT:8220677056

PRAJAPATI/ KUMHAR MBBS Girl, 27/ 159 cm Govt. Medical Officer seeks Jharkhand Settled MBBS/MS/MD Boy. Emil–id: srmgrint@gmail.com

27YRS DOCTOR Bride MBBS Working in UK seeks Doctor Groom working in UK. Interested please call 9841284563

HINDU REDDY Doctor 34Y 165cms Well Settled Family. Seeks Suitable Groom from India/ Dubai/ Singapore, Caste No Bar 89256 40111

MUDALIYAR, 27YRS, MBBS, MS, Well Educated Family background, Seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 6385293227

BRIDEGROOM WANTED
Smart, Pretty, Cultured Homely Doctor Girl, MD, Anaesthesiology Specialist from Affluent Family of Doctors 35/165 Father Cardiac Surgeon from Kerala, based in Chennai, Mother Tamil. Looking for doctor groom (or) Engineer from good families
98400 50381 / 98409 85383

ENGINEER

31 YR old girl 160 cm slim, MTech from IIT Chennai, working as Scientist in Chennai, belongs to SC from Kerala seeks suitable alliance. Whatsapp No 94477 63685

GOVT / QUASI GOVT

SC, AD, Bank Employee, Age : 32, Triupathi. Wanted Bank Employee or Government Employee: 9000180420

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

SC/Tamil/ BE/ Mar 93/ IRS-IT/ seeks MD/MS/SS or IAS Allied Services Contact: 9042261465

KANNADA

CHETTIAR- 30Yrs, B.Tech-IT, Working as IT Professional in UAE. Looking for well Educated and with Reputed Job. Caste No Bar, BC Category. CT: 9786220821, 9003430922. Email: keerthuram10@gmail.com

MALAYALAM

DOCTOR NAIR girl, 11/92, Makam, 158 cm, Central Government Service (Sr. MO CGHS) doing MD at AIIMS Delhi, 9434289192 / 9933267390

NAIR GIRL, 31/157, MBBS, MD, Trivandrum. Seeks suitable Nair Professional grooms. 8547028369.

Chennai based Kerala Marthoma christian girl 27 yrs old Ht 168 cm working in Australia. Contact 0096899022675 mctlotus@gmail.com

THE HINDU

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TAMIL

GROOM WANTED RC Christian, 27yrs, BE, MBA, Business Family in Chennai, Need Aboard Profiles Ct:9841329471

CHRISTIAN, NADAR, 29 yrs, B.E, MBA, Govt job, Rich and affluent family. Contact 8138901097.

NATHAMAR UDAYAR, catholic 31 yrs, HR professional–MNC , with null and void order looking for catholic boy below 35 yrs, premier institute or IT professional with null and void or unmarried with clean habits, WhatsAp 9443124608

LOOKING FOR Christian Bridegroom for the girl working in USA start-up aged 26. End time message. 8939250457

CHRISTIAN, SC, 24 yrs, B.Sc, Upper middle class family. Contact: 8138900530

TAMIL MUSLIM, Age 26, MBBS, Parents doing business, Family income 30 Lakhs. Contact: 8138009140

✔ MUSLIM ENGINEER girl 38 yrs, seeks qualified, employed, Unmarried Tamil Muslim Groom. 9444235779

RC NADAR Tamil, 31 years, Chithirai, M.E., 5 feet, Vegetarian, Spiritual, wants to be a home maker seeks Govt. employed Groom. Ct: 94422 47012

TAMIL MUSLIM Age 23 Years MBA Seeks Groom working in UAE, USA. For Details Contact: 98431 95231.

RC NADAR, 27yrs, BE 1.5lakhs/ pm, Elite business family Seeks Suitable Groom Ct: : 9380791999/ 9841329471

CHRISTIAN NADAR, age 23, completed B.Arch, upper middle class family, looking for an educated groom. call 8138901181

MUDALIAR (27/165), Beautiful, BE/IT Professional, Bangalore. Seeking fair groom from I.T. Background only, Sub-caste no bar. Contact: 9444979565/ 6369192021, Email: sivanesan1955@gmail.com

Adidravidar 28/160 Hastham B.E, B.Ed seeks professionally qualified settled groom,same caste.9789668845

GROOM WANTED, Caste No Bar, 30yrs, MBBS, MS, Elite business family in Chennai. Ct: 9710093999/ 9710091999

HINDU, VANNIYAR, 24 yrs, MA, Studying at Chennai, upper middle class family. Contact 9048444840.

HINDU, CHETTIYAR, 24 yrs, B.Arch, IT proffesional at Madurai, Upper middle class family. Ct 8138900470.

HINDU, AGAMUDAIYAR, 23yrs, M.Tech at Kanchipuram, Upper middle class family. Contact 8138900557.

HINDU NADAR 29yrs, BE, Govt staff, well educated family, Seeks Suitable Groom Cont:9380791999/ 9841329471

AGAMUDAIYAR/ MUDALIAR, Dr,M.B.B.S 24yr Fair, 5'4,Non–Veg Preferably Dr,Bridegroom. 8754548810/ 9444333992

HINDU NADAR 2002 / 161cm Uthiradam Magara rasi, Raagu dhosam M. Tech, seeks suitable same caste groom earning above 50kpm. Ct: 9444970305

VANNIYAR, BDS, 31, Revathi, Employed, Middle class family, Groom from same community needed. 9840961251

Chettiar Bride 32yrs Sr Mgr top pvt bank seeks tall well educated and settled groom. CNB. Phone: 99406 57137

HINDU TAMIL Yadava Revathi 28/165 B.Tech TCS Chennai 10 Lac P.A seeks Software Groom from Same Community. Cont: 91760 52808 / 86103 21964

MUDALIAR: 26/ V.Fair, & Beautiful, MBBS, MD doing, Chennai, Elite Family, Seeks groom Doctor / Business Ct: 9962530015

MUDALIAR (CNB): 26/ V.Fair, B. Tech, MS (USA), Associate Developer, USA, Elite Family, Seeks groom Abroad / India.Ct: 8925019776

BEAUTIFUL, WARM 26, 160cm, polished, UK–raised doctor from affluent Nadar family. Seeks active, driven, compatible groom. Call/WA 9345634365

SC–AD, DR MD–Gen.Med Tamil 28y Fair–Seeks Suitable & Good Looking Dr/ Er. SC Christian also OK 9840077081

SC/AD/26, B.E, IT Professional, family and employed in Chennai, Salary 1 lakh / per month Ct: 8608594900, 8248239004

RICH MUDALIYAR, 25yrs, B.Tech, Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 6385293227

IYENGAR BHARATWAJA Gotram 30/165 Moolam 3rd Padam B.E One Lakh/ month seeks Suitable Groom. Ct: 9245455070

ATREYA GOTHRAM Bharani Nakshatram 28yr old Science PostGraduate 5.9ft tall Bharatnatyam dancer from traditional family with very modern Outlook seeks a qualified, cultured groom from good family Ct Only on Whatsapp Lakshmi Suresh +91 8754433999

MUDALIAR 30, Divorce MBA,162cm Good looking well Settled Family seeks Groom CNB Ct. 8778514465/ 7200866346

RICH NAIDU, 30yrs, BE, Divorce, Well Educated Family background. Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 9962791888

HINDU, CHETTIYAR, Age 26, M.Sc, Teacher, Middle class family. Contact: 8138009214

HINDU, BC, Age 27, B.Sc, Nurse, Middle class family. Contact: 8138009139.

VANNIYAR (26/164), LLM, beautiful, CNB, Chennai seeks suitable groom. Ct: 9940655572

SC DKV 25yrs/165cm MBBS Girl require Medical Professional boy from same community. CT: 94971 33945

SEEKING SUITABLE Alliance for Vanniar Girl, 31years, 155cm, MDS (Dentist), working as Senior Lecturer in Dental College at Chennai. Please Contact: 9382167197 / 9962781009.

CHENNAI BASED Mudaliar 28/166cm fair BE (EEE) GOI defence Commissioned Officer Seeks BrideGroom as GOI/ PSU/ Defence Officer CNB. 8130306022

MUDALIAR ANUSHAM, Vrichigam, 31/ 165, MA (HR), Chennai, Business Family, Financially Well Settled Seeks Suitable Groom. Whatsapp: 9884863220.

HINDU NADAR B.Tech, Industrialist, 26yrs /166cm Seeks Suitable Mumbai Based Groom. Contact: 8424058261

MUDALIAR 27/165 Beautiful,MBBS,MD, Apollo Hospital,1500000. PA,Afflunet Family, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

VELLALA GIRL SWE, 30/172, BE MBA working in Canada seeks Handsome PQM. ct 9841306599, sarathyram149@gmail.com

HINDU, MUDALIYAR, 26 yrs, completed M.Arch, Architect at chennai, income 1 crore. call 8138901294.

HINDU, CASTE no bar, age 36, second marriage, M.Arch, Architect, income 30 lakhs, need a suitable man from good family backround. contact : 8138901337

HINDU, VANNIYAR, age 26, B.Arch completed, Architect at chennai, looking for a fair and handsome guy. ct 8138009235.

BRIDEGROOM WANTED
IYER, Srivatsa, Ashwini, 167 Cms. / 51 kg DOB: 29-Apr-1995 Ph.D, Lecturer in UK, Willing to settle in India. Age below 34/Bachelor only
9585488777, 9710110522

HINDU VALLUVAR 41/158cm Fair Girl MBA Working in MNC seeks Suitable Groom. caste no bar. Ph: 9886234181.

ALLIANCE for SC/AD 23 yrs fair BE Production Engineer working in a Pvt company near Chennai getting good salary seeks alliance from BE graduates working in govt., or private sector / doctor, UG / PG degree Arts and science working in govt., groom below 28 years from well settled family. Contact: 76396 49144 / 98433 62590

HINDU, KONGU vellala gounder, age 37, Divorced, B.Tech, Manager at Accenture IT company, looking for an educated groom. ct 8138901189

TELUGU

WANTED NAIDU Groom, Settled in USA, for a Good Looking Girl, only Daughter, 22 years, 155cm Employed in Washington State , Permanent Resident. Preferred Upper Middle Class Family. Contact: +1 650 933 7006, anjanbcb@gmail.com

BRIDES WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

✔ ROMAN CATHOLIC/30 yrs /180 cm /B.E (Mech), M.S (Product Design)/ working in Sweden 3+ yrs. Seeks Post Graduate/ Professionally Qualified Bride, 25–29 yrs / preferably based/ working in the EU/ willing to relocate to Sweden. Contact:6381070174 Email: sjm.val7@gmail.com.

REMARRIAGE CHRISTIAN CSI Nadar parents settled in Australia seeking alliance for thier only son 32/177 Doctor in Australia. Educated Christian girl fluent in English, home-loving first marriage or remarriage with no child and legally separated. Contact: 9447128955.

Hindu- Naidu, June 1963,158cm, Fair, Single man, M.Sc., MBA, Chennai. Seeks Bride. No Bar. Ct: 89250 31982

DOCTOR

VISWABRAHMIN BOY 35 years, British citizen, born and brought up in Dubai. Working as Ortho Surgeon in UK, looking for girls working in UK as Doctor or willing to move to UK. Caste no bar. Contact : 8943432057.

MALAYALAM

CHRISTIAN HINDU parents, son PhD Engineering 37/165 Sweden employed. Brides employed in Sweden Europe preferred. Caste no bar. M4marry 5026356. 9847711756.

NAIR BOY 28 MSW MBA working Chennai invites proposals. 9710158315

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN, CATHOLIC, 41 yrs, Remarriage, B.E, Private employee at Chennai, Upper middle class family. Contact 7356483111

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar 28 MS USA seeks same community bride with H1B Visa, MS student or from any country Willing to relocate to USA 9382266099

CHRISTIAN DOCTOR, 39/176 M.D.Paediatric, Neonatologist, fair divorcee seeks fair Doctor / Non - Medico Bride, Age 30 to 35, Kerala / Tamil Nadu. Caste no bar, no kids. Contact: 96003 36302 / 86100 20066

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Doctor, Divorcee 36yrs/178cm, MBBS, Dip in Cardiology better earning lives in Nagercoil seeks qualified/ Divorced Bride.9003983230

TAMIL

HINDU, PILLAI, 35 Yrs, MS, MBA, Managing Director at Germany, Income 1Crore. Contact 8138900412.

CASTE NO BAR/ Hindu Nadar 42 Yrs 177 cm M.Tech, MNC employed, Clean habits, well settled Chennai seeks suitable alliance. Ct.88382 40512.

HINDU–BE/33/170/SWE/SC/AYILLAM–KATAGAM. FAMILY is financially well off, educated and Settled in Bangalore. Looking for a suitable bride from the same/other caste. Contact No 9845401461.

PERMANENT RESIDENT in Germany, 31 yrs, 168 cms., 63 Kg, fair and slim ,employed , seeks good looking bride with professional qualification and employed in India or abroad. Contact 9841294930.

33yrs/183 cm, Tall and Handsome, Hindu, M.Arch , from a affluent Business Background seeking for a Bride. Contact: 9840150217

MUDALIAR DIVORCEE, PhD, Professor Pvt Eng.Collage, age 51, Magaram Seeks educated unmarried/ widow/ Divorcee without child from FC/OBC (40–45yrs) No Brokers Contact 9150799959

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN, CSI, 28 yrs, B.Sc, Nurse at Dubai. Income 20 lakhs. Contact: 8138901281

AGAMUDI MUDALIAR Upper Middle Class, 35/168, Rohini, Sudhaa Jathagam, PG, Team Leader, MNC, Seeks Graduate Bride Age Upto 32yrs. 9176780777.

MUDALIAR: 29/178CM, Handsome, B.Tech, Business, Having own Manufacturing Industry, Hotels, Chennai, Elite family, seeks bride Affluent family Ct: 9840866993/ 8939012419

GAVARA NAIDU, M.Sc, 50000/39. own house, Business, Tirunelveli seeks caring Bride 30-39. Caste no bar and widow without issues. Ct: 8903909676

ELITE MUDALIYAR, 27yrs, MBBS MD, Rich business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact:6385293227

SC AD PR Hindu Born 87, B.E., ECE., S.Railways Madurai, Mahara Rasi, Avittam. Ct : 9443583777.

HINDU NADAR, 28yrs, MBA, 2Lakhs/ pm, Well Educated Family, Seeks Suitable Bride Ct: 9380791999/ 9841329471

HINDU KARUNEEGAR Vegetarian 38yrs MNC Chennai Seeks Graduate Bride. Sub Caste No Bar.Contact :94423 07644

MUDHALIYAR, CA, Age–40, Never married, Star: Kettai, Own House, 6 Acre land. Sub Caste ok. Ct: 9677622641

HINDU, BRAHMIN, 36 yrs, MCA, IT professional at Chennai, Income 30 Lakhs. Contact: 9072777804

HINDU, CASTE no bar, 32 yrs, Divorced, BBM, Business at Singapore, Income 1 crore. Contact: 9072777822

HINDU, CASTE no bar, 35 yrs, B.Tech, MBA, Business entrepreneur, Income 50 lakhs. Contact: 8138900372

HINDU NADAR 27 yrs MBBS., Own hospital seeking good looking Hindu Nadar bride. Ph: 6369355344

MUDALIAR, 37/172.5, BE, working as a Software Consultant in reputed MNC in Bangalore. Warmly welcoming a bride from humble, cultured, educated & traditional family. Ph: 9994517104

DEVENDRAKULA VELLALAR Karthigai 29/164 BE Jr. Engr (Southern Railways), 70000 PM Seeks Suitable Bride. 94437 64038.

FAIR GUY, 28yrs, Vellalar, CTS, Chennai. Seeking RC Christian BC/OC bride. WhatsApp: 9894289459.

HINDU NADAR 29/178 B.E MBA well settled MNC Chennai seeks educated good looking bride.Cont:9445663691

HINDU TAMIL Nadar 45/181 B.E., Carleton University IISC 99943-51766, vimalkrishna@tamilfilmmakerspro.com

S.PRASANTH, M.E/31 (Villupuram) Vanniar Kanni rasi, hastham Steno in Southern Railways, H.Qrs, Chennai. Salary: 70k. Seeks Bride must be minimum B.E or equal and employed in Chennai. .Contact : 9791514709.

MUDALIAR,DOCTOR,31YRS,RICH AND Affluent family ,own clinic in chennai ,seeks educated, non working bride from equal status.contact parents ph 9080062364

PROF. QUALIFICATION, in India, UK, Canada, working in Canada, Sr.Fin. Manager drawing CAD 12000/–pm, Tamil Iyer, 43, First marriage, looking for graduate girl below 33 from Tamil Iyer, willing to settle In Canada. send email with horoscope and photo to braman1951@yahoo.co.in/ 9940025365

VEGETARIAN BRIDE, only son bachelor DOB– 26.10.1989 Sr.payroll specialist in bangalore MNC 23 LPA, Mob– 9941297486

SAIVA PILLAI 29yrs. B.E, M.S USA. H–1B holder, 90000 Dollars PA. Seeking suitable vegetarian bride working in USA. Ct: 9444040568

TAMIL BOY 33 Years / MBBS / MD / Doctor/ Father and Mother Both are Doctors Bangalore resident family is seeking a suitable match. (080–69129253)

TAMIL MUDILYAR Boy 1994 Born / 180cm / Working in Newyork/ Annual Income 5 Cr resident of Bangalore is looking for a Match (080–69072093)

BUSINESS CLASS Tamil family (700cr+) seeks a match for their 2000–born son (MTech, UK) involved in the family business. Parents are doctors owning hospitals in BLR. Caste is no bar. Contact: (080–69129253)

TAMIL

AGAMUDAIYAR, UTHIRAM/KANNI 35/180, BE, HRM, Job at Canada, Canadian Citizen, Seeks BE,Nursing, any degree bride.CNB. Ct:9442993042

AGAMUDAIYAR UTHIRADAM 34/180 B.Tech, TCS, Hyderabad, 2Lpm, seeks Equally Qualified bride, Caste No Bar. Contact: 8220984182

WELL–EDUCATED ARCOT Mudaliar, Aged 35, Residing in US West Coast & Employed in the Tech industry.Holds MBA & MSC from Reputed Ivy League & Singapore Universities. Seeking well – educated & driven bride, preferably based in US. Caste no bar. Call (or) Whatsapp: +65 90610927

HINDU YADAVA 40/170cm ME/Central Govt Rs.1,00,000 Remarriage Seeks Suitable Bride Caste No Bar 9566365167

TAMIL IYER Boy 34/168 MBA Sr Consultant, Multinational Co. Ahmedabad Seeks Tamil Brahmin Bride 9981956943

Mudaliar Groom, Tamil, 28y/183, fair clean habits, MS, Employed in USA H1B, seeks bride working/studying abroad/India.9440842088,9848428945

MUDALIAR 29, M Tech,180cm, 25 Lacs PA, Smart well Settled Family Seeks Bride CNB.Ct 8778514465/ 7200866346

HINDU, VANNIAR (Gounder) 39yrs, 175cm Malaysia, Complete Management studies well settle with Logistics Professionals Salary 200000 per Month Seek Suitable Unmarried bride from age 28–38yrs From Middle/lower Middle Class Family with good attitude and Must give importance to our cultures traditional values. Bride from same Community or other. Must be relocate Malaysia after Marriage Phone – +60176260092 Email – Rasusures@gmail.com.

SELF EMPLOYED (16L/pa), 59, Widower seeks Chennai based, well–educated, Tamil speaking Iyer woman between 50 & 55yrs, widow/ divorcee as a life partner. Send photo to & details to mail: meenasundar3107@gmail.com

CASTE NO BAR / Hindu 11.02.1992 / 163cm Barani / Mesham (No Dosam) B.E, M.E, LLB, Employed, Trichy. Seeks Suitable Bride Ct: 9865655438

RELIABLE GENUINE Life Partner Age 45-55 wanted for Widower 66 Gowder B.E. Widow or Divorced Also 9791556546.

MUDALIAR 30/182 Handosme,MBBS,MD, Own Hospital,5000000.PA,Elite Doctors Family,CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

1984/160CM/ BE 25Lpa 2BHK Chennai, Nondisabld seek Hindu Veg–Nurse/ Others/Some disabld– Any-Lang:9491073783

DEVENDRAKULA VELLALAR 2nd Marriage 51 3.5 LPM Senior General Manager Bangalore OWN House Seeks Suitable Girl. CNB. 9442607143

BOY B.E 33y (SC) earning 1L/month in MNC CHN Owns 2 houses and assets in CHN. Father (Late) Chief Officer S/Rly Looking for a graduate bride from a good family. Ct 9840350403

65, DKV, young looking/ central govt officer, pensioner, divorcee seeks suitable partner, CNB. Contact 7904462692

TAMIL

TAMIL IYER Ph.D., fair, athletic & fit US Citizen, Executive in Pvt Co., 60/180 widowed after great marriage, 2 sons (working & living independently) seeks Hindu Brahmin life partner, 50–60 yrs. Email profile and photo to: anoname2021@gmail.com

Seeking BRIDE for Bridegroom
Hindu, Kulalar/Udayaar, 44 yrs, 170 cms, M.Tech, IT professional, Caste open for discussion.
CT: 93842 76066

BRIDE WANTED
Tamil Iyer 41+ BE, Colour Technologist, Chennai annual 12 L, 183 cms heavily built seeks suitable bride. Status caste language no bar. Contact by e-mail to :
phdram2001@yahoo.com

BE IIT 188cm Height Mudaliar born Nov 91 MNC Hyderabad Sal 91 lacs seeks Bride from same Allied castes,Tamil, Telugu Cont: 7382620365

RC Tamil, 1992 born, MS Engg (USA), 186cm, Managerial role in California, Well-settled in USA. Seeking a suitable Bride. Language & Caste no bar. Contact: 98490 79688.

Gavara Naidu, Affluent Family 165/28, Thiruvonam, ME, Working in MNC and Own Business Contact : 9841097110

TELUGU

TELUGU VANNAR, Age 40, Kanni, Astham, MBA, Manager in MNC, 20Lac PA. Any Telugu. Ct:9894777505

BALIJA/GAVARA NAIDU, 24–26yrs, well educated & employed. #9094937080

✔ HINDU / reddy / 40 / 191 cms/ issueless divorcee / MDS/ Chennai / dentist at private hospital / 1 lakh/pm / CNB / Ct 9003060330.

BRIDE GROOM Age 40 years DEEE self employed First Marriage Gajulu Balija Naidu need Bride age above 30 years Widows without issues also considered Ct: neojayakumar22@gmail.com

BRIDE WANTED Rich Naidu 25yrs, B.Tech, MBA, Own Transport & Own shipping companies in Chennai. 6385293227

TELUGU BOY 1993 Born/ 178cm / Networth 200 Cr and above is looking for a suitable match (080–69072049)

Kshatriya Telugu Groom, 34 years, 183 cms, fair, Good Looking, working in Bangalore for 10 years, currently drawing Rs.50 Lakhs a year, seeks a Beautiful Bride around 25-30, Good height, well educated from a respectable family, having faith in God. Groom's family is rich, having Properties in Hyderabad, Bhimavaram and Vizag. Contact: 88974 15735 (No Dowry)

BALIJA NAIDU 32yrs Rohini Rishabam Fair Business (Surgical Manufacturer & Distributors) Seeks Any Telugu Caste Bride. 9790963402.

MARRIAGE BUREAU

US UK Europe All Caste Religion 1st Marriage Remarriage. Ct:8248757840

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ELITE BRIDES WANTED

MUDALIYAR, 32, 170 cms, BE & MS(Engg), Businessman. Lives in Coimbatore. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match from similar community. Contact: 6366448344

DEVAR, 31, 178 cms, BA & M.Sc (UK), Businessman. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Working Professional. Family is affluent. Looking for a like minded match from similar community. Contact: 6366448344

BALIJA NAIDU, 37, 182 cms, MS, Product Manager. Lives in Washington, USA. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from similar community from Tamil Nadu &USA. Contact: 6366448343

KAMMA NAIDU, 36, 170 cms, Software Professional, Divorced. Lives in Coimbatore. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match from any community. Contact: 6366448343

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

CHETTIAR, 24, 163 cms, MSc in Clinical Psychology. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is affluent. Looking for a suitable match from any community from Chennai. Contact: 6366448343

BRAHMIN IYER, 31, 167 cms, Medical Professional. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from any Brahmin community. Contact: 6366448343

VISWAKARMA, 22, 160 cms, MBBS, Businesswoman. Lives in Chennai. Belong to business class family. Looking for a suitable match from business family with traditional values in similar community. Contact: 6366448344

NADAR, 24, 155 cms, MBBS, Doctor. Lives in UK. Father is a Working Professional. Family is affluent. Looking for a like minded match from similar community in Abroad. Contact: 6366448344

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DOCTOR

HINDU GRAMANI 28yrs MBBS FCHM, PGMP (Germany), Working, Well Settled Family seek profession bride from Gramani/Nadar .9444072924/ 9443800057

ENGLISH

Nair Boy, 31y /175cm, Makam, BE, MBA, IT Professional, Upper Middle Class, invites suitable proposal, Contact: 9442128194

HINDI

1985/175CM, 50 Lakhs PA, Never Married, Bangalore. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

MALAYALAM

MBA 38/175 CSI Malayalee wkg in Hospitality sector in Chennai seeks educated wkg girl below 34 yrs. email skayy1921@gmail.com

RC MALAYALEE boy 34 yrs, MBA, seeks malayalee girl of same community settled in chennai only. Contact: 7358679981/ 9176876436.

MALAYALI CHRISTIAN Orthodox 27yrs / 174cm / BE (IT) / Healthcare / Chennai Settled CT: 8939771608

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN SAMBAVAR, 45Yrs, 6Ft, SW Professional,Canada/US, Divorcee seeks Christian, Educated, Unmarried/ Divorcee/ Widow, working preferred. Ct: 94872 27975

PURE VEGETARIAN Male – 46 M.A Government M.S 1.20 L Vanniyar – Seeks Vegetarian Bride From any Caste – CNB Ct : 8903747433 / 9626370329

BRIDE WANTED Kongu vellala Gounder, 28yrs, BE, MS, Very Rich Family (Business) Ct: 9710093999/ 9710091999

HINDU GRAMANI / Nadar Age 34, 175cm B.E – EEE, MBA – PGPM Great Lakes, Remarriage No Child, Manager in Amazon, Bangalore, 32 LPA, Looking for a suitable bride.Caste no bar. ramamurthy0803@gmail.com / 9940354889

Hindu, Brahmin, 29 yrs, B.Tech, Web developer at Bangalore, family running a business. Contact 8138900547.

Hindu, Pillai, 29 Yrs, M.tech, IT Professional at Australia, Income 1Crore. Contact 8138901171

TAMIL

TAMIL YADAVA: 30yr/165cm,B.Tech,Lead Data Scientist@IT–MNC(Chennai), Income 50LPA,Residing own flat in chennai seeks working bride(professional) from Educated and Cultured Family. Ct: 98404 94566

HINDU NADAR, 27yrs, 175cm, B.Arch, Working in Canada, seeks Good looking Fair Abroad interested Professional Degree Bride. Ct: 94441 72144

GOUNDER, 28YRS, BE, MS, Elite business family, Seeks Suitable Bride. Contact: 9710093999 / 9710091999

SAIVA PILLAI, 38/183 Fair M.Com, CWA (Int) Job in Chennai,12Lp.a Seeks caring graduate Bride from simple tamil family 7550282438/ 7200574845

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar, 32yrs, BE, 1.5lakhs/pm, Elite business family in Chennai 9380791999/ 9841329471

MUDALIAR 55 Ph.D Aboard return divorcee Own Business seek suitable bride around 45 age CNB. Ct 9500367269

CASTE NO Bar, 28yrs, B.Arch, Elite business family, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact: 9962791888

ARUNDHATHIYAR, 29/171, B.E., Hastham, Accenture (Bangalore) Pollachi. 97860-35558.

HANDSOME, SUCCESSFUL, 35, 188cm, well–spoken, from cultured S. Indian family. Seeking well–educated, compatible bride. Call/WA 9345634365.

HINDU NADAR 41/171 B.Tech MS, SWE, Canada, 1st Marriage. Seeks Suitable Bride. Caste No Bar. 9790818852.

PILLAI/ MUDALIAR B.Tech. MBA. HR. IT. Chennai. 29/167cm. Well settled, educated family. Seeks SW, MBA Finance Professional. 94443 67697

TELUGU

REDDY 40/165 divorcee, employed in MNC, affluent family, veg seeks Chennai employed groom with age below 45, No child, CNB. Ct: 9884657084

GROOM WANTED Kamma Naidu, 30yrs, B.Tech, MBA, Elite business family in Chennai Ct: 9710093999/ 9710091999

HINDU KAMMAVAR Naidu girl Anusham , 32 years,Fair No siblings. Masters in Engineering working in USA, boy settled in and around USA is preferred. Email: compandequip@gmail.com and Whatsapp: 00919600611425

TELUGU BEAUTIFUL girl 2002 Born/ affluent Family is looking for a Match (Only Serious Marriage seekers are Welcome) (080–69072093)

TELUGU

Naidu Girl 29/165 cm, Aswini pursuing PhD Doctoral studies in Satellite Communications Neuromorphic Computing European Space Agency-Europe seeking suitable groom PhD/MS in USA. Ct:9840103686/bvraj1962@gmail.com

URDU

PARENTS OF Urdu Muslim Girl 31yrs/ 154cm divorcee with a kid, well educated working in Chennai, seeks open minded, good looking well settled groom, between 32–37yrs from Tamilnadu or Abroad. Ct: 9789980164.

DR.GIRL,SMP BOTH doctors invite alliance for their daughter,May 1995, 168cm,very fair & good looking,MD General Medicine. Looking for MD/MS/M.Tech from good family. 9652498734

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BJP, Congress leaders spar over quota for Muslims in contracts

Ravi Shankar Prasad calls it 'appeasement', Abhishek Singhvi says it seeks to address backwardness of the community

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI/MYSURU

For and against: Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi addressing a press conference in Mysuru on Saturday and (right) BJP spokesperson Ravi Shankar Prasad. M.A. SRIRAM AND FILE PHOTO

The decision of the Karnataka government to provide 4% reservation to Muslims, under 2B of the Other Backward Classes (OBC) quota in the award of contracts below ₹2 crore, led to the national leaders of the BJP and Congress sparring on the issue on Saturday.

Speaking in Delhi, BJP spokesperson and former Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad called it "appeasement politics" and an "unconstitutional" move that would "weaken national unity". Meanwhile, at a press meet in Mysuru, senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha member Abhishek Manu Singhvi said the quota seeks to address the backwardness in the community.

The State Cabinet on Friday approved an amendment to the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements (KTPP) Act to introduce 4% reservation in government tenders to Muslim contractors under the 2B category of the OBC quota.

Mr. Prasad alleged that the Siddaramaiah-led government in Karnataka had decided on the quota at the behest of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who wanted the party to lead the ongoing "competitive vote-bank politics" among the Opposition parties.

"This reservation in Karnataka has been extended under the full patronage and approval of Mr. Gandhi. Mr. Siddaramaiah does not have the courage nor the political capital to announce it on his own," said Mr. Prasad, stating that it would be challenged in the court. "Although such issues seem small, but added together they have national implications," he said, also flagging the issue of attacks on Hindu temples in West Bengal.

"How far will this appeasement politics go? Will there be reservation for buying railway and cinema tickets?... They have lost so many times, still they do not understand," he said, adding that the BJP would oppose the move to provide 4% reservation because religion-based reservation is not permitted under the Constitution. Reservation could be given to OBCs in the Muslim community, the BJP leader pointed out.

Backwardness issue

Taking a contrary view, while addressing the press in Mysuru, Mr. Singhvi said, "Reservation is not given to them because they are Muslims. It is being given because that section has backwardness. The quota seeks to address that backwardness."

Responding to the BJP's plans to question the quota for Muslims in the court, the Congress leader said the saffron party was welcome to move the court as it was their constitutional right. If the BJP moves the court, the State government's decision would be legally tested, he said.

However, the Congress government in Karnataka enjoyed the administrative right to provide such a reservation to backward sections of society. He said the government was transparent about extending the reservation.

On delimitation

Mr. Singhvi described the dissatisfaction expressed by the governments of certain southern States over the possible decline in the number of Lok Sabha seats during the proposed delimitation exercise as a "serious issue" that begs the attention of the ruling party and government at the Centre.

He regretted that not even an attempt had been made by either the Centre, the Prime Minister or the Home Minister to involve all the stakeholders of the proposed delimitation exercise expected to be carried out on the basis of population.

Reacting to Union Home Minister Amit Shah's statement that the southern States would not lose a single Lok Sabha seat, Mr. Singhvi argued that there would be a "relative reduction" in the number of seats when the seats in other parts of the country, where population had increased, go up.

KRV writes to Stalin lauding decision to opt for Tamil letter instead of '₹' in Budget

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

T.A. Narayana Gowda

Karnataka Rakshana Vedike (KRV), an organisation often at the forefront of language agitations in Karnataka, has written to Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin appreciating his decision to replace the rupee symbol officially used by the Union government for the last 16 years ('₹') with the Tamil letter 'ரூ'.

The letter called the Dravidian movement of Tamil Nadu "the pride of the entire South Indian Dravidian speakers" and said it was imperative for all southern States to unitedly struggle for the survival of Dravidian languages and follow the example of Tamil Nadu.

The DMK government in Tamil Nadu replaced the rupee symbol '₹' with the Tamil letter in its logo for the 2025-26 Budget tabled in the Assembly on March 13.

'Truly commendable'

"As a proud Indian and a Kannadiga, I wholeheartedly welcome this step and congratulate you on this bold move. Whatever criticisms and resistances may come your way, this symbolic resistance you have put up to the continuous attempts of the North Indians to impose Hindi is truly commendable," said KRV president T.A. Narayana Gowda on Saturday.

"The Union government and the Hindi profiteers of north India are continuously imposing or forcing Hindi on crores of non-Hindi speakers of the entire country in various ways under the pretext of making it the 'national language'. They are imposing the three-language formula and strangling other Indian languages. The imposition of Hindi is also being done through the National Education Policy (NEP) implemented by the Central government."

Pressure tactics

He described as "most shameful" the "disrespect" shown by the Union government towards the State governments that have tried to maintain autonomy in education by not accepting the NEP. "The pressure tactics they are using are an insult to the democratic principles enshrined in our Constitution," the letter states.

The delimitation, or redivision of constituencies, planned in 2026 will become "a political death sentence" for the southern States. "They are displaying a dictatorial attitude without paying any attention to the requests made by their government and other South Indian governments to the Centre in this regard."

"The Dravidian movement of Tamil Nadu which has continuously confronted all the attempts of the Hindi fanatics of north India, who are pushing south India into permanent slavery on the basis of language, has bent them down and stopped their vicious behaviour and is the pride of the entire south Indian Dravidian speakers," Mr. Gowda said.

"If 90 years ago, stalwarts of the Dravidian movement, like Ramaswamy Naicker (Periyar) and Annadurai, had not raised their voices and continuously defeated the Hindi profiteers through mass movements, today, including our mother tongue Kannada, hundreds of Indian languages like Tamil, Malayalam, Telugu, Tulu, Kodava, Gondi, Oriya, and the people who speak these languages would have been in danger," the letter states.

Appeal to Siddaramaiah

Mr. Gowda said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has stood by Kannadigas on this issue and has been challenging the Union government.

"In this context, I demand that Mr. Siddaramaiah prepare and use the Kannada script rupee symbol instead of the Devanagari script rupee symbol, following the example of the Tamil Nadu government," the letter states.

Incidentally, the Kannada version of the 2025-26 Budget document of Karnataka used the Kannada letter "ru" instead of the rupee symbol.

Panel to be set up to choose KPSC members

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Cabinet has decided to set up a "broad-based search committee" to choose suitable personalities to be appointed to the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) and discuss the need to reduce the number of its members.

The Cabinet decision on Friday followed a recent elaborate debate in the State legislature on the need for reforms in the KPSC.

According to sources, the proposed committee, which comprises the Chief Secretary, among others, will be set up to choose the right candidates for the posts of the KPSC chairperson and member as per the recommendations of the P.C. Hota Committee that had looked into making the recruitment process transparent and efficient.

It is also learnt that the Cabinet decided to examine the proposal for reducing the number of KPSC members.

Presently, the commission has 16 members, including the chairperson. This had come under criticism in the Assembly, with Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok pointing out that the public service commission of Uttar Pradesh has fewer members though it is a bigger State.

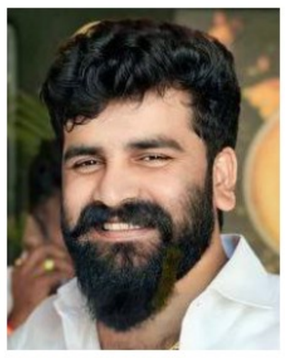
Even the Administrative Reforms Committee led by T.M. Vijay Bhaskar had recommended downsizing of the KPSC.

According to sources, a decision on the exact level of downsizing is expected to be taken in the next meeting of the State Cabinet. The downsizing of the KPSC will have to get the Governor's nod.

Gram Swaraj Bill

According to sources, the Cabinet also decided to bring in a Bill to amend the Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj Act to provide for one-time regularisation of nearly 96 lakh properties located in revenue layouts in rural areas.

The government has announced that these properties would be brought under e-swathu through a one-time regularisation. The idea of providing a one-time regularisation is to bring these properties in unauthorised layouts into the property tax network so that the local bodies would get resources.



H.S. Manjunath

Youth Cong. president to take oath tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

H.S. Manjunath, newly elected president of the Karnataka Pradesh Youth Congress Committee (KPYCC), will take oath at a function at the Palace Grounds in the city on Monday.

Mr. Manjunath, who served as the National Students' Union of India (NSUI) State chief twice, would take oath from the outgoing president, Mohammed Haris Nalapad.

Mr. Manjunath, 35, is a native of Hindasanahalli in Nagamangala taluk of Mandya district.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, KPCC president and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, and office-bearers of the All-India Youth Congress are expected to attend the function.

DKS asks Mahila Congress members to start preparing to contest polls when 33% quota comes into effect

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Honour: Ananya Prasad, who completed the solo row across the Atlantic Ocean, was felicitated by Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Minister for Women and Child Development Laxmi Hebbalkar, at the International Women's Day event organised by the KPCC in Bengaluru on Saturday.

Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar on Saturday called upon the State unit of the Mahila Congress to prepare women candidates for the coming State Legislative Assembly elections as 74 out of the 224 constituencies – going by the current strength – will be reserved for women when the law on women's reservation comes into effect.

The law provides one-third reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.

The party has been giving the ticket to 10 or 12 women members to contest the Assembly elections. How to find winnable candidates in case 74 constituencies are reserved for women in the 2028 Assembly elections is a question, the KPCC chief said.

Children and wives

Noting that identifying children and wives of MLAs and MPs as candidates for the Assembly elections was not the solution, Mr. Shivakumar told the party workers to work hard towards becoming candidates in the next polls.

Addressing women members of the party at a function organised to mark International Women's Day, Mr. Shivakumar spoke at length about the five guarantee schemes and benefits they provide to women.

Mr. Shivakumar, who has completed five years in office as the KPCC president, said the 2023 election manifesto had given preferences to many concerns of women and youth. Stating that he was not satisfied with the functioning of the Karnataka Mahila Congress, Mr. Shivakumar appealed to women members to devote more time to the party and use the opportunities they have.

He also told them to register beneficiaries of the Gruha Lakshmi scheme as members of the Congress. The party has not won many seats in the coastal parts of the State. To ensure the party's victory in more constituencies, he told the Mahila Congress office-bearers to intensively involve guarantee scheme beneficiaries for the party work.

Two years in office

The Congress government would complete two years in office on May 20, 2025, he said and asked the women cadre to celebrate the occasion across the State. Various competitions would be organised to mark the occasion. State Mahila Congress president Sowmya Reddy, MP G.C. Chandrashekar, Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar, and former MLA Vinay Kumar Sorake were present.

Government of Karnataka
ZILLA PANCHAYAT BIDAR
DISTRICT OFFICE, BACKWARD CLASSES WELFARE DEPARTMENT
JANWADA ROAD NAVADGERI BIDAR
E-mail: dobcmbidar@gmail.com PHONE NO:: 08482-233148

No:BCWD/ADM/TENDER/CR-02/2024-25 DATE: 13-03-2025.

RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION

For the year 2024-25 and 2025-26 Backward Classes Welfare Department Bidar Dist hereby invites Technical & Commercial Bids from officially registered, eligible suppliers, Non-governmental organization who are registered under law, co-operative societies who are registered under society act to Supply of food materials to department of Hostels of District wise for all institutions spread over Bidar District as described in the schedule of requirements.
1. E-Tender Notification:13-03-2025. 2. Amount put to Tender Rs.1957.59 Lakhs 3. Commencement of down load of e-tender from website: 13-03-2025. 4. Pre-bid Meetting : 19-03-2025@11:30 AM Dist. Office, BCWD, Navadgeri Bidar, 5. Last date and time for uploading E- tender in e-procurement platform: 21-03-2025@17:00, 6. Opening of Tehcnical bid: 24-03-2025 @ 11:30 AM Dist. Office, BCWD, Navadgeri Bidar, 7. Opening of Finacial bid : 28-03-2025 @11:30 AM, 8.EMD Amount : Rs. 19,57,590/-, 9. Venue of opening of tenders & address for communication Smt. Sangeeta Biradar District Office, Backward Classes Welfare, Department Navadgeri Bidar (Mobile No: 8151994537)
Interested eligible registered in e-procurement portal bidders can down load the bid documents with visiting the web site https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/

DIPR/Bidar/442/KSMC&A/2024-25

Sd/- District Officer,
Backward Classes Welfare Dept, Bidar Dist, Bidar

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION - Call-2 (Through KPP Portal mode only)

The Superintending Engineer (Ele) (Commercial, Operation & Maintenance), Bangalore South Circle Bangalore Jurisdiction of BMAZS invites Brief tender notification for the following Civil Engineering work through KPP portal in **Two Cover System**.

Sl. No.	Enquiry No.	Name of the Work	Amount put to tender
1.	BESCOM/ 2024-25/BD/ **WORK_INDENT247**	Construction of Additional Floor for providing office to AE(Ele) and JE(Ele) in Agara O&M Section office of S-20 Sub division, HSR Division office, BESCOM, Bengaluru and Conversion of store and service station at ground floor and allied works. **(Reserved for Scheduled Tribe)**	**Rs.55.06 Lakhs** EMD: **Rs.55,100/-**
2.	BESCOM/ 2024-25/BD/ **WORK_INDENT248**	Construction of Meeting hall, Head room, Parapet wall & other allied works to S-14 Sub Division Office, Jayanagar Division, BESCOM, Bangalore.	**Rs.76.24 Lakhs** EMD: **Rs.1,52,500/-**
3.	BESCOM/ 2024-25/BD/ **WORK_INDENT249**	Construction of Record room at Second Floor for Kundalahalli O&M Unit allied work to Kundalahalli O&M Unit office of S-7 Sub Division, BESCOM, Bangalore.	**Rs.33.89 Lakhs** EMD: **Rs.67,800/-**

Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/Clarifications : **27.03.2025 up to 17.30 Hrs.** Last Date & Time for receipts of tenders: **01.04.2025 up to 16.00 Hrs**. Date & time for opening of Technical Bid: **02.04.2025 at 16.30 Hrs**. Date & time for opening of Price Bid: **Will be intimated after technical evaluation to the responsive bidder.**

The Details regarding participation in the tender can be obtained through KPP Portal by visiting website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ on or after Dated 17.03.2025.** For any Clarification contact KPP portal helpdesk +91-80-46010000 or +91-8068948777 or email to support@ eprochelpdeskcom

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer (Ele),
Bangalore South Circle, BESCOM.

Caste survey: Cong.'s move to rope in foreign expert questioned

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Saturday sought a response from the Congress on the objective behind the Telangana government's decision to involve a foreign expert – French economist Thomas Piketty – for analysing the "sensitive" data of the caste survey in the State, stating that the move raised serious doubts about the motive.

"First, you stood with the foreign media, instead of the Indian media; then you were with the foreign agencies that wanted to weaken India's economy; and then during elections, you appeared to be with the 'invisible' and 'suspicious' foreign powers trying to interfere...before each parliamentary session, you would highlight the issues raised by one foreign entity or the other," said BJP spokesperson and MP Sudhanshu Trivedi, asking what the Congress wanted to achieve by involving a foreigner in a sensitive process.

Mr. Trivedi asked if the Congress did not trust the Indian experts.

The State has roped in Mr. Piketty as part of a 11-member committee for analysing the caste survey data. The BJP leader said the model proposed by Mr. Piketty's had attracted criticism abroad and that his tax recommendations could be detrimental to the salaried and middle class.

Two more electronics manufacturing clusters will come up in T.N.: Vaishnaw

'Electronics goods are second largest exported commodity in India, thanks to PM's vision and its execution by State govts.'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Emphasis on electronics: Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw speaking at the Inauguration of Zetwerk Electronics Manufacturing Unit at Sriperumbudur on Saturday. B. Velankanni Raj

Union Minister for Railways, Information Technology and Electronics, and Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw on Saturday said that two more electronics manufacturing clusters would be established in Tamil Nadu – at Pillaipakkam in Kancheepuram and Manalur in Tiruvallur – at a cost of ₹1,112 crore.

Delivering an address at the inauguration of Zetwerk Electronics' 15-acre manufacturing plant in Sriperumbudur – its seventh facility – he said that electronics goods had become the second-largest exported item in India, thanks to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision and its execution by State governments.

"When Prime Minister Modi took over, electronics manufacturing was a small industry. Today, electronics goods have become the second-largest export item in the country, overtaking several conventional industries that had developed over decades. This was possible due to a clear thinking and focused execution. So, I thank all the State governments, including Tamil Nadu's, for executing Modi Ji's vision," he added.

The Minister further said that the Railway Budget for Tamil Nadu had been increased many times, and now stood at more than ₹6,000 crore.

"Whether it is a flyover, underpass, station or a railway line, our focus is on ensuring that work gets done...," he pointed out.

Mr. Vaishnaw also underlined the importance of State governments working together with Centre. "Whether it is electronics, telecommunication, railways, or any other sector, we need to ensure that our people get what they need. [We] have to ensure that the benefits trickle down to all sections of society..," he added.

Tamil Nadu's Minister for Industries, Investment Promotions and Commerce T.R.B. Rajaa said that the focus on education over the last 100 years had helped create the talent pool in the State.

"Tamil Nadu adds another gem to its crown. Almost 36% of all electronics exports from India has been from Tamil Nadu – almost entirely from this zone [Sriperumbudur]. This is the hotbed of India's exports, and talent in Tamil Nadu. This has been made possible in Tamil Nadu, thanks to the talent that we have built over 100 years here," Mr. Rajaa added.

Mr. Rajaa further sought Mr. Vaishnaw's help in bringing rapid transport to industrial hotspots emerging in Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai and Thoothukudi.

According to a release, the new factory of Zetwerk Electronics would manufacture control boards for washing machines, refrigerators, air conditioners, and IT hardware, and was expected to provide employment for 1,200 workers.

People could be stripped for objectionable comments, but I act according to law, says Telangana CM

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has expressed strong displeasure over the use of objectionable language on social media, especially YouTube.

Reacting sharply in the Assembly on Saturday, he warned that those making offensive remarks would be dealt with sternly, stating, "If anyone makes objectionable comments at their will, they could be 'stripped and paraded'. But I will like to act according to law."

The Chief Minister also emphasised the need to define journalists in the State. "I do not care how long I remain in power. What matters is how we govern. I will not engage in mean politics. I can't remain silent for the sake of positions that do not bring self-respect. I will remain upright and firm as long as I live," he asserted.

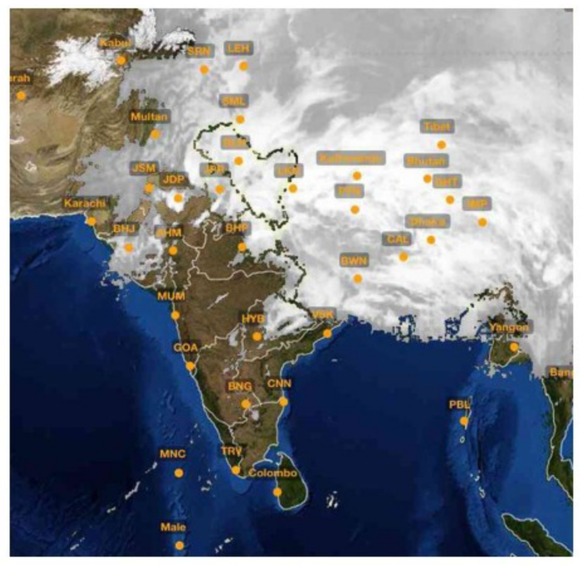
This "vicious and poisonous culture" where politicians and their family members, particularly women, were subjected to abusive and degrading language is spreading due to BRS leaders, he said and warned BRS chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao against encouraging such an unhealthy trend. He stated that he would take strict action against 'rogue journalists' within the framework of existing laws.

The Chief Minister also called for amendments to the current laws governing journalism to clearly define journalists and differentiate them from those misusing the profession.

Mr. Reddy's remarks came in response to the recent arrests of two women YouTubers in the State. He suggested that Legislative Affairs Minister D. Sridhar Babu and Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy convene a meeting with journalist unions and other stakeholders to devise measures to curb this growing problem.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh. Thunderstorm with gusty winds/lightning likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Punjab, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	33.6	25.5	Kozhikode	—	36.6	27.1
Ahmedabad	—	37.8	22.8	Kurnool	—	40.8	24.3
Aizawl	—	34.2	16.2	Lucknow	—	36.9	20.0
Allahabad	—	39.6	19.4	Madurai	—	35.9	24.1
Bengaluru	—	34.8	18.8	Mangaluru	—	33.5	25.8
Bhopal	—	37.4	19.6	Mumbai	—	35.1	23.0
Bhubaneswar	—	38.6	25.0	Mysuru	—	39.0	18.0
Chandigarh	5	24.0	17.1	New Delhi	—	33.0	18.7
Chennai	—	33.6	25.1	Patna	—	36.4	22.3
Coimbatore	—	35.9	22.3	Port Blair	—	31.7	25.0
Dehradun	7	30.2	14.8	Puducherry	—	33.4	23.8
Gangtok	6	20.4	10.5	Pune	—	40.4	22.4
Goa	—	35.0	25.0	Raipur	—	40.0	24.1
Guwahati	—	28.3	18.4	Ranchi	—	37.0	19.0
Hubballi	—	37.0	20.0	Shillong	—	24.0	17.0
Hyderabad	—	38.4	23.3	Shimla	2	18.8	9.0
Imphal	50	29.3	19.7	Srinagar	19	5.6	2.0
Jaipur	1	33.3	20.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.4	25.4
Kochi	—	32.8	26.4	Tiruchi	—	35.1	24.0
Kohima	—	21.4	13.3	Vijayawada	—	36.4	24.4
Kolkata	—	35.0	26.2	Visakhapatnam	—	32.1	25.7

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	22	—	49	103	77	
Bengaluru	22	42	42	120	96	
Chennai	8	14	53	34	46	
Delhi	13	134	64	47	59	
Hyderabad	8	105	12	170	115	
Kolkata	3	10	24	94	92	
Lucknow	8	54	56	142	137	
Mumbai	6	35	18	63	115	
Pune	22	104	19	136	123	
Visakhapatnam	—	54	27	32	84	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Nayagarh, Odisha recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 280 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Palkalaiperur, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 17

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Department of Health & Family Welfare
KARNATAKA STATE AIDS PREVENTION SOCIETY
Arogy Soudha, 4th Floor, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bangalore-560023. Tel: 080-29557021
E-mail: pdksaps@gmail.com

No. KSAPS/ADM/27/2024-25 Dated: 14/03/2025

Invitation for tenders through e-Procurement

Tenders are invited for Hiring of Vehicles (cars) on Monthly Basis under E-Procurement System. Details are available at e-procurement website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Last date for submission of tender is on 07/04/2025 at 5.30pm.

Sd/- Project Director
Karnataka State AIDs Prevention Society
Bangalore

DIPR/CP/5692/AKAR/2024-25

Government of Karnataka
CEO, HASSAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Phone No's: 08172-233824

RE - TENDER SCHEDULE

E-TENDER FOR ENGAGING MANPOWER AGENCY TO PROCURE NRLM STAFFS TO ZILLA PANCHAYATH, HASSAN 1)TENDER REFERENCE NO & DATE: ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಜಿಪಂಹಾ/ಂಯೋ.ನಿರ್ದೇ/NRLM/ಹೊ.ಸಿ.ಟೆಂಡರ್/16/2024–25 DATE:10.03.2025 2)APPROXIMATE VALUE OF TENDER: 1,50,00,000 3)EMD AMOUNT: 1.5% = 2,25,000 4)TENDER COMMENCEMENT DATE 14.03.2025 5)LAST DATE AND TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS: 02-04-2025 5.30 pm 6)TIME AND DATE OF OPENING OF TECHNICAL BIDS 05.04.2025 11.30 am 7)TIME AND DATE OF OPENING OF FINANCIAL BIDS 09.04.2025 11.30 am 8)LETTER OF INTENT 10.03.2025 9)CONTRACT: ONE YEAR 10)PLACE OF OPENING OF TENDERS: ZILLA PANCHAYATH, HASSAN

sd/- Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayath, Hassan.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/1061/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2024–25

BANGALORE UNIVERSITY
Recognised by UGC, Accredited by NAAC with 'A++' Grade
CENTRE FOR DISTANCE & ONLINE EDUCATION
Jnanabharathi Campus, Bengaluru – 560056, Karnataka
Phone: 080-22961261, 080-46807810
E–mail: dccbub@gmail.com / admission@ddebubonline.in

No.BU/DDE/ON-LINE/FEB/2025 Date: 14-03-2025

Admission Notification
for Online Education UG & PG Programmes (Courses): 2025 February Session

These Programmes are UGC Entitled Programmes as per provision 3(B)(a) of UGC (Open and Distance Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020.

U.G Programmes (3 Years Duration/06 Semesters):
(i) **B.Com** - Bachelor of Commerce

P.G Programmes (2 Years Duration/04 Semesters):
(i) Master of Arts in (English, Kannada)
(ii) Master of Commerce (General) (M.Com)
(iii) Master of Science (Mathematics)

Last Date for Admissions: 31.03.2025

- All Admission Registrations are through Online.
- Interested eligible candidates across the Country and Abroad can take admission to Bangalore University Online Programmes.

For more details visit University website :
www.bangaloreuniversity.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-
REGISTRAR

DIPR/CP/RO5704/AAPL/2024-25

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR.
I.F.T.No:EE/PWD/VJP/PB/5054/2024-25/4329 Dated:15.03.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(E-Procurement)

The- **Executive Engineer, Public Works Dept. Division, Vijayapur** Invites tenders from eligible tenderers (registered in Public Works Department) Total 12 works, As per standard bid documents KW- 3 & 4 with Different head of accounts costing of amount for Rs. 500.00 Lakhs to Rs.150.00 Lakhs respectively, the EMD amount of Rs. 7,50,000.00 to 2,25,000.00 for the works. Increase in G.S.T shall not be paid in the extended period of Contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as determined by the authority while granting the extension of time. The calendar events of tenders, dates are fixed as follows 1) Pre-Bid Meeting Date: 25-03-2025 at 11.00 AM 2) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders Date- 01-04-2025 upto 4.30 PM. 2) Opening of Technical Bid Date-02-04-2025 at 4.31 PM. 4) Opening of Financial Bid Date-03-04-2025 at 4.30 AM. Clause-3 Conditions of Standard Bid Document may be seen in Departmental Website i.e "eproc.karnataka.gov.in" and for more information may contact help desk Bangalore (Phone No. 918025501216 & 918025501227) or office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Vijayapur

DIPR/VIJAYAPUR/769/KSMCA/2024-25

BELAGAVI URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, BELAGAVI.
Phone / Fax : 0831-2470342, 2470257, E-mail : belagavibuda@gmail.com

No. : B.U.D.A./P.W.D./E-Tender/2024-25/3842 Date : 15-03-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(E-procurement Portal)

Commissioner, Belagavi Urban Development Authority, (BUDA) Belagavi invited tenders from eligible Agencies for the works taken under **Belagavi Urban Development Authority Grants** in standard tender document through E-Procurement-02 portal. **Tender notification for the below work dated 27.02.2025 is stands cancelled due to technical reasons and the Revised dates are as below.**

The details of the time table of tenders are as follows.

1) Name of Work : Formulation of GIS Based Master Plan for Belagavi Local Planning Area, Indent No. : BGMUDA/2024-25/SE0022, Estimated Amount (in Rs.) Including GST : 1,88,86,385/-, EMD Amount (in Rs.) : 2,70,000/-, Work Execution Period (Including Mansoon) : 15 Months.

Tender Form Fee as per E-Procurement Portal

1) Last Date for Submission of Tender Quarriese : 20-03-2025 upto 4.00 p.m., 2) Pre Bid Meeting Date and Place : 21-03-2025 at 12.00 p.m. in Belagavi Urban Devolopment Authority Belagavi, 3) Last Date for Submission of Tender : 03-04-2025 upto 4.30 p.m. 4) Opening of Technical Bid on : 04-04-2025 at 5.00 p.m., 5) Opening Date of Financial Bid will be intimated in E -Procurement Portal, 6) Below mentioned officers of Authority have all the rights to Accept or Reject the Tender without giving any reason,7) GST amount is Included in Tendered Amount.

For further details visit online Website : kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Belagavi Urban Development Authority, Belagavi.
Sd/- Commissioner, Belagavi Urban Development Authority, Belagavi.

DIPR/Belagavi/1926/Manipal/2024-25

Government of Karnataka (Zilla Panchayat Gadag)
District Health and Family Welfare office, Gadag
Ph No. 08372-233996 E-mail : dhogadag@gmail.com
No: SUPPLY/E-TENDER /2024-25 Date : 15.03.2025

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

Online Tenders are invited in TWO Bid System for the Medical Equipments And Medical Items To Taluka Hospital Ron For more Further Information visit the E procurement Website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in using this tender reference Tender Reference No– DHFWS/2024-25/IND1472 Can be Verified.

Sd/- District Health and Family Welfare Officer, Gadag

DIPR/Gadag/KSMCA/697/24-25

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. SEE/Tr(Op)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/F-180(2)/24-25/9597-99 Date: 14.03.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal only)

KPTCL invites bid against enquiry No:KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/24-25/EPR-15,Call-4, Dated 01.10.2024 for the work of increasing the Vertical Clearance by Providing intermediate tower in existing corridor of 66kV DG-3 & DG-4 D/C Lines between Tower number 70 & 72 by providing 1 No of new proposed 110kV DA+3, NBT, KPTCL Design Tower near Hirandanahalli Lake in TLM Sub-Division Hoody, Bengaluru, in the Tr(M), BMAZ South Circle, Bengaluru.

The Bids will be received through KPPP mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **'E Procurement KPTCL' or to https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 17.03.2025**. Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/-Superintending Engineer(Ele.), Tr(Operations) Circle-South , KPTCL, Office Complex, Ground Floor, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560 009, Ph: 22386686-85.

Government of Karnataka
Minor Irrigation and Ground water Development Division, Chitradurga

NO.EE/MI&GWD DIV/CTA/PB1/SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION: 16/2024-25 DATE:13-03-2025

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

K.W.- 4 (TWO COVER SYSTEM)

Item rate tender in Two cover system as per KTPP act-2000 with latest amendments is invited from the eligible contractors registered in KPWD (KW4) (**Minimum Rs-160.37 Lakhs and Maximum amount put to Tender Rs-161.32 Lakhs**)for the **02 work** through KPPP-procurement portal.

Tender documents may be downloaded from KPPP-Portal website :https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from **14-03-2025** Last Date & Time for enquiries about tender **21-03-2025 upto 5.30 P.M.,** Last Date for submission of Tenders **24-03-2025** upto **4.00 P.M.** Opening of Technical bid Date: **25-03-2025 after 04.30 P.M** (If possible). Opening of Finanical bid Date **26-03-2025 after 04.30 P.M** (If possible). Tenders may be submitted along with EMD and tender fee (Mode of payment should be online only as prescribed in website). Amount mentioned in KPPP-portal is final for the amount put to tender & the E.M.D. Additional Information regarding works may be obtained from the Division Office during office hours & from KPPP-Portal help desk No+91-8046010000+91-8068948777 & support@eprochelpdesk.com

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/714/2024-25

Sd/- Executive Engineer, MI, Chitradurga

Karnataka Urban Water Supply & Drainage Board
O/o The Chief Engineer, Jalabhavan, #P-4, 10th main, 3rd cross, 3rd floor, Saraswathipuram, Mysuru-09
Ph No: 0821-2545894, Email: kwbcemys2014@gmail.com

CORRIGENDUM-1

Calendar of Events for the tender works of **"Construction of 1.80 MLD capacity SBR type STP in Zone-4 of Arakalagudu town & Providing 150 mm to 200 mm dia sewer main for attending missing links in Zone-4 under Providing UGD system to Arakalagudu town",** for the Indent No:KUWSDB/2024-25/WT/WORK_INDENT308, with **A.P.T: Rs.1012.61 Lakhs** through KPP Portal.

Further details may be obtained through https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, K.U.W.S. & D BOARD, Mysuru.

DIPR/DDMYS/15/KSMCA/ 1071 /2024-25

ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ
Chamarajanagar Institute of Medical Sciences
(An Autonomous Institute of Govt. of Karnataka)
Sy. No. 124, Yadapura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Chamarajanagar - 571313
Email : directorcimscrnagara@gmail.com
Tel : 08226-226701, Website : https://cimscrnagara.karnataka.gov.in

No. CIMS/Tender/Drugs/Cat.A/163/2024-25 Dated : 10-03-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Tender has been invited as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 Rule 2000 for the supply of Drugs / Surgicals (Category - A) to the teaching hospitals of this Institution. Interested Tenderers are informed to apply the tender on or before 15.04.2025 at 5.00 p.m. by paying E.M.D.

If, the last date for submission of tender declared as Government Holiday, the next working day shall be treated as last date. No separate Notification in this regard will be issued. Interested tenderers may contact the college authorities for furthers information.

Sd/- Dean and Director,
Chamarajanagara Institute of Medical Sciences
Chamarajanagar.

DIPR:CHANAGAR:697:2024-25

Government of Karnataka
O/o Executive Engineer, R. D.W & S Division Chikodi
Tel. No.: 08338-275101 E-Mail: ee.rdws.ckd@gmail.com

No. EE/RDW&S/CKD/PBB/KW4/TENDER/24/2024-25/2452 Date:14-03-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (through e-procurement)

On behalf of this office above reference letter Date: 14-03-2025 we had called the Tender through e-procurement under 2 cover system (Technical bid and Financial bid). All details and tender conditions are available in e-procurement website. (www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in) only.

1:Date of Pre-bid meeting :18-03-2025 at 11:00 am O/o Executive Engineer, R.D.W&S Division, PRED Office Campus, N. M. Road Chikodi, 2:Last date & Time for tender submission:01-04-2025 upto 17:00 pm, 3:Date of Technical bid opening:02-04-2025 upto 17.30 pm, 4:Date of Financial bid opening: 04-04-2025 at 11.00 am.

Sl. No:1:Scheme Name:Providing FHTCS to 1064 Households in Awale Tota, Landage Tota, Sambaragi Habitation of Sambaragi Village Athani Taluka Belagavi District Augmentation of MVS Madabhavi and Other 18 village in Athani Taluka of Belagavi Dist (Balance Work) INDENT: RWSSD/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT9071, Estimate cost (Rs. in Lakh):215.51,EMD:3,24,000/-,Period for completion (including monsoon):4 Months

Sd/-Executive Engineer RDW&S Division Chikodi

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1930/KSMCA/2024-25

From Page One

Election panel revisits EPIC-Aadhaar link plan

The Centre has informed Parliament that the Aadhaar-voter ID seeding exercise was "process-driven", and no target or timelines have been set for the proposed linking. It has also clarified that the names of those who do not link their Aadhaar details with their voter IDs will not be struck off the electoral rolls.

According to Section 23 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, as amended by the Election Laws (Amendment) Act in 2021, electoral registration officers are required to ask existing or prospective voters to provide their Aadhaar number for establishing their identity on a voluntary basis.

'Face-saving measure'

Meanwhile, the Trinamool Congress on Saturday said the meeting convened by the CEC was a "face-saving measure".

"First, three statements. Now this meeting. This is just a face-saving measure. We will keep a hawk-eye vigil till the elections," Sagarika Ghose, deputy leader of the Trinamool Congress in the Rajya Sabha, said.

A 10-member delegation of the party met the full Election Commission bench on March 11 over the issue of duplicate EPIC numbers.

In a memorandum to the EC, the party had also said that there had been "credible allegations of Aadhaar cards being cloned, and the use of these cloned Aadhaar cards to facilitate fake voter registrations".

India to fence entire border with Myanmar

Till last year, only 10 km of the border near Moreh in Manipur had been fenced.

A March 10 parliamentary panel report said that the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) had in March 2024 approved a proposal worth ₹31,000 crore to fence the Indo-Myanmar border and to construct roads to provide better connectivity to company operating bases (COBs) of the Assam Rifles.

"For creating infrastructure along the IMB (India-Myanmar Border), the CCS granted in-principle approval for construction of fence and 64 border roads. Construction of fence and road of 1,610.2 km along IMB in 10 years and its maintenance for five years, at cost of ₹20,264.4 crore; construction of 58 roads (1,467.5 km) to connect the COBs of Assam Rifles and six approach roads (78.7 km) to IMB in 10 years and its maintenance for five years, at a cost of ₹10,767.5 crore (total cost ₹31,031.9 crore)," the report said.

The model is likely to be replicated along the international border with Pakistan and Bangladesh, the official said.

Naga, Kuki-Zo bodies oppose move

The fencing proposal has met with stiff opposition from Naga and Kuki-Zo bodies, who say that it will disrupt ethnic and familial ties for people living on both sides of the border.

On March 1, Mr. Shah while reviewing the security situation in Manipur had asked the Assam Rifles to construct a 10-km fence on either side of each border gate or crossing points under the revised FMR. As many as 22 out of 43 crossing points along the Myanmar border under the revised FMR have started functioning. Eleven of such gates are in Manipur.

"Surveillance cameras will also be placed along the fence to monitor the area better. The border gates and the fencing will ensure that people who cross the border are accounted for. So far around 9,000 people have used the border gates to enter Manipur. There have been very few cases of overstaying," said another government official.

For entry into India from Myanmar, individuals report at the designated border crossing points and fill a form. The Assam Rifles personnel record the biometrics and issue a border pass with the photograph of the applicant and a QR code, which is valid for seven days. The pass will have to be deposited on return from the same crossing point. All details are uploaded on a centralised portal.

After announcing in February 2024 that the FMR had been entirely suspended, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs in December 2024 finalised fresh protocol to regulate the movement of people living within 10 km of the border.

The India-Myanmar border runs along Arunachal Pradesh (520 km), Nagaland (215 km), Manipur (398 km) and Mizoram (510 km).

U.S. planning visa curbs on 41 nations

Mr. Trump issued an executive order on January 20 requiring intensified security vetting of foreigners seeking admission to the U.S. to detect national security threats.

That order directed several cabinet members to submit by March 21 a list of countries from which travel should be partly or fully suspended because their "vetting and screening information is so deficient".

Trump's directive is part of an immigration crackdown that he launched at the start of his second term.

He previewed his plan in an October 2023 speech, pledging to restrict people from the Gaza Strip, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Yemen and "anywhere else that threatens our security".

Two mega deals with France wait for Cabinet panel nod

The Navy is keen that the defence agreements for 26 Rafale-M fighter jets and three more Scorpene-class conventional submarines, worth a total of $11 billion, be inked this financial year

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

In unison: Indian Air Force's six Rafale aircraft fly in 'Vajraang' formation during the 76th Republic Day parade at Kartavya Path in New Delhi on January 26. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Two mega defence deals with France – for 26 Rafale-M fighter jets and three more Scorpene-class conventional submarines – worth close to $11 billion are now awaiting final approval by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) before their anticipated conclusion very soon.

The Indian Navy will get to see up close the performance of the Rafale-M jets on the French aircraft carrier *Charles de Gaulle* as the carrier strike group currently in the Indian Ocean is scheduled to visit Goa next week for the bilateral Varuna exercise.

"All formalities have been completed and the case has been put up to the CCS for a couple of weeks now," an official confirmed on the deal for 26 Rafale-M jets. "Negotiations were done weeks back," the official said.

The Navy has been very keen that both deals be inked in this financial year ending March 31 so they are included in this year's Budget.

The Rafale-M deal is expected to be concluded in April when the French Defence Minister is expected to visit India. As reported by *The Hindu* earlier, deliveries of the Rafale-M for the Indian Navy would begin in four years once the contract is signed.

Officials said that given that it is a government-to-government deal, funds earmarked in this fiscal budget can be rolled over to the next.

Follow-up agreement

Sources stated that the Scorpene deal is also complete in all respects. It is a follow-up to the earlier deal for six Scorpene submarines procured under Project-75 between Naval Group of France and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd. (MDL).

If the deal is concluded next month, the Indian Navy would begin receiving from 2029 the Rafale-M jets and MQ-9B, an unmanned aerial vehicle with high altitude and long endurance features, contracted from the U.S.

On July 13, 2023 as Prime Minister Narendra Modi was *en route* to Paris, the Defence Acquisition Council chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh accorded Acceptance of Necessity for the procurement of 26 Rafale-M fighters and three additional Scorpene-class diesel-electric submarines.

The 26 Rafale deal includes 22 single-seater Rafale-M and four twin-seater Rafale trainers (which are not carrier compatible). The 26 jets are meant to fill the gap in numbers till the indigenous Twin Engine Deck-Based Fighter, which is under development, is inducted into service. The Navy currently operates two aircraft carriers – *INS Vikramaditya* procured from Russia and the indigenously built *INS Vikrant* that was commissioned in September 2022.

Police personnel in front of the temple where the alleged blast took place in the Khandwala area of Amritsar on Saturday. PTI

Blast damages wall of temple in Amritsar; Cong. flays AAP govt.

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab Police on Saturday hinted at the involvement of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) agency after a blast damaged the wall of a temple in Amritsar late on Friday. The Opposition tore into the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government after the blast, blaming it for alleged failure to maintain the law and order situation in the State.

Police sources said two unidentified motorcycle-borne persons threw a suspected explosive device at the Thakurdwara temple in Khandwala, which damaged its wall. The police said no one was injured in the incident.

Amritsar Commissioner of Police Gurpreet Singh Bhullar said a team was dispatched to the site after they received information about the attack around 2 a.m. on Saturday. "The forensic team was also called in and sampling of the debris was done. The Pakistan's ISI indulges in such mischief. They lure economically weak youth to carry out such activities," he told mediapersons.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "The Amritsar incident is handiwork of fissiparous forces that want to destabilise the peace, progress and prosperity of the State." The law and order situation in Punjab was much better than other States with the police watching with an eagle eye, he said.

The Leader of the Opposition, Partap Singh Bajwa of the Congress, sought the resignation of the Chief Minister. "This is the 13th such incident in the border belt of Punjab since mid-November," he said.

'Super afraid of retaliation', says Indian Ph.D. candidate who 'self-deported' from the U.S.

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

An Indian Ph.D. candidate at the prestigious Columbia University in the U.S., who was accused of being a "pro-Hamas sympathiser", narrated how the U.S. immigration and customs enforcement agents raided her apartment on the campus housing and she had to seek help from immigration attorneys. She has temporarily taken refuge in Canada.

Speaking to *The Hindu* in an online interview, Ranjani Srinivasan, who is in her fifth year of Ph.D., said she is "super afraid of retaliation" and that she is not yet aware of what specific charges were brought against her by the American authorities that led to her being "disenrolled" from the university just six months before she was to complete her thesis.

"My flatmates and my friends started helping me and I felt that the Columbia housing was unsafe. So, I moved to another address to stay with some people who could support me. Then on Friday was the first disappearance from the Columbia campus – Mahmoud Khalil is detained and disappeared – when I became extremely scared," she said speaking from an undisclosed location in Canada saying that it took her several days to understand the extent that the U.S. authorities would go to deport her.

Ms. Srinivasan had "self-deported" or voluntarily left the United States after her visa was revoked for allegedly "advocating for violence and terrorism" and involvement in activities supporting the Palestinian group Hamas.

Ranjani Srinivasan has temporarily taken refuge in Canada. PTI

She said that last Sunday evening, her service as a Teaching Assistant and her I20 visa were terminated and she was "disenrolled" following which she had 15 days grace period to leave the country. "It's kind of inexplicable how it happened. There aren't any legal grounds to deport me," said Ms. Srinivasan elaborating how she witnessed a marked change in the behaviour of university authorities in those few tense days.

Expressing apprehensions that she could be "charged with something", she said that she is "super afraid of retaliation at this point". Ms. Srinivasan said that over the past week and a half, she had heard of several students facing similar charges of activism and being similarly deported. She said she wants to come back to India from Canada. "I have not slept in almost a week. I thought it would be easier to negotiate with Columbia from here. But it is obviously not the case," said Ms Srinivasan.

"I have done nothing wrong. I was a Fulbright scholar, I was at Harvard and now I am in Columbia. I have no criminal record. I have no criminal past. I do feel like that if it can happen to someone who does not have the markings of someone who is usually targeted, then it could really happen to anyone with an F1 visa," said Ms. Srinivasan seeking help from the Government of India to support her in getting the F1 visa so that she could complete her PhD thesis.

Maharashtra tense over call to raze tomb of Aurangzeb

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Amidst rising tension over a threat to the grave of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb at Khuldabad in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar district in Maharashtra, local authorities on Sunday barred Hindutva leader Milind Ekbote from entering the district from March 16 to April 5.

The order was issued on Saturday by the Deputy Resident Collector's office. "After the release of the film *Chhaava*, the views of many people on the Mughal Emperor have turned extreme, as seen in social media posts. District authorities have learnt through intelligence inputs that Mr. Ekbote's organisation, Dharmaveer Sambhaji Maharaj Pratisthan, and his supporters, could be planning to reach Khuldabad to raze Aurangzeb's tomb. The district administration also said the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal have planned agitations from March 17, seeking the removal of the tomb. Considering all the unrest, the district administration decided to prohibit the entry of Mr. Ekbote and his supporters into the limits of Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar," the office of the Collector said.

Later in the day, the Leader of the Opposition, Ambadas Danve, issued a challenge against demolishing the tomb. "The tomb is the remains of our history. We should be able to tell our future generations that Aurangzeb came here and was defeated and buried in this land itself," Mr. Danve said.

Later, Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Shirsat retorted saying, "Maharashtra's soil does not have place for the grave of a cruel emperor who tortured and executed Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj."

Sule slams Bill against urban Naxalism in Maharashtra

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

NCP(SP) MP Supriya Sule on Saturday opposed the law proposed by the BJP government against urban Naxalism in Maharashtra. Under the proposed 'Prevention of Certain Unlawful Activities by Individuals And Organisations and For Matters Connected Therewith or Incidental Thereto' Bill, the definition of "illegal acts" seems to grant unlimited powers to government agencies, she said.

"This effectively gives the government a license to establish a Police Raj, which could be misused against individuals, institutions, or organizations that express constructive opposition in a democratic manner," she wrote on X.

Beed police drop surnames from name plates to avoid 'social tension'

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
BEED

There's muted excitement at the office of the Beed Superintendent of Police (SP) as many staff members have recently received their new name plates. Against the backdrop of rising social tensions in Beed following the gruesome murder of sarpanch Santosh Deshmukh, the Maharashtra Police is attempting a new approach for the first time.

The Beed SP has issued a directive that police personnel should refrain from using their last names on their name plates.

They have also been asked to refer to each other only by their first names. The move, the new SP of Beed hopes, will ease social tension and build trust towards the police force.

First step: The new name plates given to the police personnel at the Beed SP office carry only their first name. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Deshmukh, a sarpanch from the Maratha community from Massajog village in Beed, was murdered by local goons belonging to the Other Backward Class (OBC) Vanjari community.

The incident led to social tension in the district.

Nationalist Congress Party-Ajit Pawar (NCP-AP) sitting MLA from Parali, Dhananjay Munde, resigned as a State Cabinet Minister in the wake of the incident.

"When police personnel stand for bandobast, or for security duty, people often look at the name plates to ascertain their caste. Many times, it was observed that people were more comfortable speaking to police personnel from their own caste group, or allege caste-based targeting if a policeman from another caste apprehended them," a senior official of Beed police said.

"We don't have a caste or religion. No bias should be felt. This is also a move to fill our constables with self-confidence. We will be seen as independent and fair. We will be seen as a force which is above any caste, religion, or geographical region. This is a strong message to the people and to the force that we will work only as per law and not as per any caste, religion or area," Beed SP Navneet Kanwat told *The Hindu*.

Union govt. must bring in a policy to end agricultural distress, says Sharad Pawar

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Noting the rising numbers of farmers ending their lives in the Marathwada and Vidarbha regions of Maharashtra, Nationalist Congress Party (SP) chief Sharad Pawar has urged the Union government to frame policies that will help farmers facing persistent distress.

Mr. Pawar wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking his help to get full-size equestrian statues of Maratha statesmen Peshwa Bajirao I, Mahadji Shinde, and Malharrao Holkar installed at the Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi.

Mr. Pawar was addressing a press conference in Baramati on Saturday, after the State government released the latest farmer suicide figures. "The data released by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation indicating that Marathwada and Vidarbha recorded 2,635 farmer deaths by suicide in the year 2024 alone, is worrying. We will collect accurate data from different locations of the State to assess the situation. The Centre should prepare a policy to help farmers," Mr. Pawar said.

> The data released by the Ministry indicating that Marathwada and Vidarbha recorded 2,635 farmer deaths by suicide in 2024 is worrying
>
> **SHARAD PAWAR**
> NCP (SP) chief

Use of AI

Emerging technologies should be introduced into agricultural processes, Mr. Pawar said. "Artificial intelligence (AI) can be used to boost the quality of sugarcane cultivation in the State. Many sugar factories will take part in the AI farming process. We have a meeting scheduled later in the day with some officials of sugar factories and I am sure a revolutionary decision will be made and the use of AI in farming will begin soon," he said.

In his letter to the PM, Mr. Pawar advocated for the installation of statues showing the Maratha leaders mounted on horses rather than simple busts.

"A Pune-based NGO had planned to install busts of Bajirao, Shinde and Holkar at the Talkatora Stadium, but litterateurs and historians have weighed in favour of equestrian statues of the three warriors. As Talkatora Stadium falls under the jurisdiction of the New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC), we are seeking the Prime Minister's intervention in directing the Government of Delhi and NDMC to grant the necessary permissions for installing full-sized equestrian statues," he said.

(Those in distress can seek help by calling: ASRA: 9820466726)

Cong. scarred Assam, Modi helped rebuild it, says Shah

After opening a police academy in Dergaon, the Home Minister referred to pacts with extremist groups and neighbouring States as govt. efforts to restore peace; he is on three-day northeast tour

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had helped a "Congress-scarred" Assam rebuild by restoring peace and ensuring unprecedented development.

On a three-day tour of Northeast India from Friday, Mr. Shah inaugurated the first phase of the ₹1,024-crore Lachit Barphukan Police Academy in the Dergaon area of Assam.

Addressing a gathering after the event, he referred to several peace pacts with extremist groups, and agreements with Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya, as efforts under the Modi government to help restore peace in Assam.

"Over 10,000 youth laid down arms in the last 10 years and joined the mainstream. Discussions about Assam once revolved around agitation, firing, and insurgency. Now, a ₹27,000-crore semiconductor unit is being set up to change Assam's future," he said, adding that the Centre had lined up more than ₹8 lakh crore for the development of the State.

Union Minister Amit Shah and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma during the inauguration of a police academy on Saturday. PTI

"During 10 years of Congress rule, Assam received ₹1.27 lakh crore as devolution grant and grant-in-aid. It jumped to ₹4.95 lakh crore during (the first) 10 years of Modi*ji*'s government. I want to ask Congress why it pushed Assam into the fire of riots, did not build infrastructure, and did not allow peace to come," Mr. Shah said.

He said Assam started reaping the benefits of peace that returned under Mr. Modi's leadership.

The Home Minister lauded Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma for naming the police academy after the 17th century Ahom General Lachit Barphukan, who defeated the invading Mughals.

"I was seven years old when I was taught about Lachit Barphukan. I did not find him in any syllabus till graduation. He was kept confined to Assam. Today, his biography has been translated into 23 languages. The books are available in libraries across the country and inspiring children," Mr. Shah said.

He expressed confidence that the police academy would become the country's best after it was completed in three phases within five years.

Mizoram visit

Later in the day, Mr. Shah flew to Aizawl, where he attended a farewell marking the relocation of the Assam Rifles battalion headquarters from the central part of the Mizoram capital to a 106.85-acre site at Zokhawsang on its outskirts.

Addressing a gathering after the formal shifting and exchange of maps, he underscored the Centre's commitment to ensuring lasting peace and development in the region in all sectors, from tourism to technology, sports to space, and agriculture to entrepreneurship.

Congress slams Assam CM for arrest of its leader

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday criticised Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma over the arrest of a State Congress spokesperson for a social media post.

Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh, in a post on social media platform X, said the action was "worse than atrocious".

The Opposition party asserted that Mr. Singh's post, for which he was arrested, was "perfectly reasonable".

"The arrest of my young colleague Reetam Singh for a perfectly reasonable social media post is worse than atrocious Mr. Chief Minister," Mr. Ramesh said.

Mr. Singh was arrested on Saturday for a social media post enquiring about the status of cases registered against three senior Bharatiya Janata Party leaders, including a former State chief and two MLAs.

The Congress leader was arrested from his home in Guwahati by a team of Lakhimpur district police with assistance from the Guwahati Police.

Official data show reservation policy benefits Jammu more than Kashmir

Peerzada Ashiq
JAMMU

Official data on reserved categories shared with the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly on Saturday showed that the current reservation policy benefited candidates from Jammu more than those from the Kashmir region.

The official data on the population which benefited under different reserved categories in the Union Territory since April 2023 was tabled in the Assembly. It was shared in response to a question raised by J&K Peoples Conference (JKPC) president and MLA Sajad Lone.

The data suggested 67,112 candidates from the Jammu region benefited under the Scheduled Caste (SC) category as against zero from the Kashmir region. Similarly, 4,59,493 people (85.3%) benefited under the Scheduled Tribe (ST) category from the Jammu region as against 79,813 (14.7) from the Kashmir division.

It showed very few benefiting under the Economic Weaker Section (EWS) from the Kashmir region – 2,273 people (7.7%) against 27,420 (92.3%) from the Jammu region.

Under the Line of Actual Control (LAC) category, the data revealed that 268 people (94.3%) benefited from Jammu against 16 (5.7%) from Kashmir.

Under the International Border (IB) category, none benefited from Kashmir, while 551 candidates did in Jammu.

Kashmir and Jammu are two provinces or divisions of the Union Territory, with each division comprising 10 districts. The two divisions, however, have completely different demographics and topography. According to data from the 2011 census, Kashmir forms around 55% of the total population of J&K as against 45% from Jammu.

Situation in 2019

Prior to 2019, when J&K was a State with special status, it had 8% reservation for SCs, 10% for STs, 4% for OBCs, 4% for residents along the Line of Actual Control/International Border, 10% for Residents of Backward Area (RBA) and 10% for Economically Weaker Section (EWS).

The Centre reworked the reservation policy in the past five years. It granted 20% reservation to STs, 8% to SCs, 10% to RBA, 8% to OBCs, 4% to LAC/International Borders, 10% to EWS and 10% to children of defence personnel, sports, CDP, PWD and so on.

"It's shocking data. Within the reservation categories, the scam is bigger than the scam of 60% reservation. If 100 students appear, 50.78% are from Jammu and 9.22% from Kashmir under the reserved categories. We are even outcrowded there," Mr. Lone said.

Referring to regional imbalances, Mr. Lone said these disparities reveal a greater loss of quotas to the Kashmiri-speaking population than previously anticipated.

"The whole reservation concept is rigged against the Kashmiri speaking population and against ST or EWS living in Kashmir," Mr. Lone added.

Mr. Lone also criticised the government committee, formed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, to look into the reservation issue, for "lacking a specific timeline to submit its report".

Imbalance in benefits

The table shows the region-wise share (in %) of beneficiaries coming under various reservation categories for government jobs in Jammu and Kashmir. The data was shared on Saturday in the Assembly as a reply to a question raised by Sajad Lone, MLA

Category of beneficiary	From Jammu	From Kashmir
Scheduled Caste	100%	0%
Scheduled Tribe	85.3%	14.7%
EWS	92.3%	7.7%
Line of Actual Control	94.3%	5.7%
International Border	100%	0%

BJP planning to add 25 lakh fake voters, says Abhishek

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Saturday held a meeting with party leaders, and said the Bharatiya Janata Party was planning to add 25 lakh fake voters in the State's voter list ahead of the Assembly election in 2026.

"BJP's plan in Bengal is to remove 25 lakh voters and add 25 lakh new voters," Mr. Banerjee told the party leaders during a virtual meeting.

"Congress, NCP, Shiv Sena (UBT) have made this mistake in Maharashtra and could not catch the fraud in the voter list. Mamata Banerjee has caught this fraud. West Bengal but not Uttar Pradesh or Maharashtra," Mr. Banerjee said.

The Trinamool leader announced that electoral roll supervisors will be appointed by the party and committees will be set up at the district, block, panchayat, municipality and booth level.

Mr. Banerjee said that house-to-house verification of voters' lists will continue by party workers.

Eknath Shinde wanted to join Congress: Sanjay Raut

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) leader Sanjay Raut on Saturday said that Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde had in the past wanted to join the Congress.

Without specifying the timeline, Mr. Raut, at a press conference in Mumbai, said that Mr. Shinde had connected with the late Ahmed Patel, Congress leader and former political secretary to former Congress president Sonia Gandhi. Mr. Patel passed away in 2020.

"I am quite aware of everything that was happening back then. I am refraining from spilling more details because Ahmed Patel is no more among us today to substantiate this. You can ask the senior Congress leader and former Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan about it," Mr. Raut said.

Sanjay Raut

Mr. Shinde's close aide and Thane MP Naresh Mhaske rubbished Mr. Raut's claim. "It looks like yesterday's (Holi) *bhang* (intoxicant) hangover has not subsided for Sanjay Raut because he seems to make such baseless claims every day. Even Prithviraj Chavan has denied that Mr. Shinde was going to join the Congress," he said.

If Mr. Raut had been aware that Mr. Shinde intended to join the Congress, why was Mr. Shinde made the Urban Development Minister in the then Uddhav Thackeray government, Mr. Mhaske asked.

"They (Shiv Sena-UBT leaders) are afraid of seeing Mr. Shinde's popularity and his good work," Mr. Mhaske added.

Expression of Interest

Kerala Responsible Tourism Mission Society inviting an Expression of Interest (EOI) & a Short Tender for selecting an Event Management and Media Partnering Agency for the Indian Rural and Agri Tourism Conclave, Scheduled to be held on 2025 March 28, 29 at Pinarayi, Kannur District in Kerala. For more details please visit our website

(Website: https://www.keralatourism.org/responsible-tourism)

Contact: 0471-2334749.

APPOINTMENT

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Sd/-
Controller of Administration

Jairam Ramesh cites doughnut row to call for new GST regime

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday took a swipe at the government over its implementation of differential GST rates, saying that after popcorn, it was now the turn of doughnuts to get afflicted by "GSTitis."

Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh cited a media report on X which stated that the Singapore-based chain Mad Over Donuts is facing a ₹100-crore tax notice for allegedly misclassifying its business and paying 5% GST, claiming it is a restaurant service, as opposed to paying 18% tax on bakery items.

"After popcorn, it is now the turn of donuts to get afflicted by GSTitis," he said. Noting that the matter is now in the Bombay High Court, the Congress leader said so much for "ease of doing business". "This is why GST 2.0 is so urgent," Mr. Ramesh asserted.

In December, it had cited absurdity of three different slabs for popcorn and and asked whether the Centre would show the courage to launch a complete overhaul for instituting a GST 2.0.

When will PM listen to concerns: Cong. on threats to economy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday said that for the past several months it has been flagging the threats to Indian economy, which were also highlighted in a podcast interview by Chief Investment Officer of Marcellus Investments, Saurabh Mukherjea.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, through his X handle, said: "In a podcast interview, Saurabh Mukherjea has identified three threats to the economy which INCIndia has been flagging for months...

"1. A pernicious, decade long real income stagnation for the majority of India's working people. 2. A consumption boom which is entirely driven by the expansion of credit and is therefore highly unsustainable. 3. Deepening inequality, with the elites expanding their wealth at rapid rates while the middle classes stagnate," he said.

"Every serious economic commentator and analyst has more or less endorsed these same views. What will it take for the Prime Minister to hear them?," the senior Congress leader asked.

TAMIL NADU POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Specification No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Name of the Work
M.146	SE/MM-I	Supply Installation and Commissioning of MCCBs

For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission / Opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit websites: **www.tnpdcl.org, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in**

DIPR/1041/Tender/2025

कार्यालय श्री सांवलियाजी मंदिर मण्डल मण्डफिया, जिला-चित्तौड़गढ़ (राज.)

क्रमांक/लेखा/श्रीसामम/2024-25/3717 दिनांक 12.03.2025

ई-निविदा सूचना-24/2024-25

श्री सांवलियाजी मंदिर मण्डल, मण्डफिया द्वारा सचालित गौ शाला हेतु वर्षभर के लिये विभिन्न प्रकार के पशु चारा/घास/सूखला/कुट्टी इत्यादि आपूर्ति कार्य (अनु. लागत 250.00 लाख) बाबत् पंजीकृत. अनुभवी व योग्य संवेदकों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट प्रक्रिया "eproc.rajasthan.gov.in" के माध्यम से द्वि-लिफाफा पद्धति में निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा का विस्तृत विवरण http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in तथा http://sppp.raj.nic.in पोर्टल पर उपलब्ध है। निविदा प्रपत्र उक्त पोर्टल पर दिनांक 15/03/2025 को प्रातः 09:00 बजे से दिनांक 03/04/2025 सायं 06:00 बजे तक उपलब्ध होकर ऑनलाईन जमा किये जा सकते है। निविदाओं से सम्बन्धित शुल्क/राशि निविदा प्रपत्र में अंकित मंदिर मण्डल के बैंक खाते में ही जमा करवानी होगी। प्राप्त निविदाओं की तकनीकी निविदाए दिनाक 04/04/2025 को दोपहर 12:00 बजे ऑनलाईन खोली जावेगी।

UBN-SMM2425GLOB00091

मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी
श्री सांवलियाजी मंदिर मण्डल

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
Superintending Engineer, (R&B), Headquarters Circle, Khairatabad, Hyderabad - 500004.

Amendement No: I, Dt. 15.03.2025 to NIT No: 12/T4/TS/SEHQC/ New High Court/2024-25, Dt. 10.03.2025. In partial modification to the NIT Dated: 10.03.2025, the following amendment is made. **Sl.No.**: 1; **Description**: Bid Document Downloading Start Date; **As Notified**: 17.03.2025 from 03:00 PM onwards; **Now Read as**: 22.03.2025 from 03:00 PM onwards; **2**. Last Date and Time of Receipt of Tenders; 04.04.2025 up to 3.30 PM; **Now Read as**: 15.04.2025 up to 3.30 PM; Date of opening Tenders; Technical Bid: 04.04.2025 at 4.00 PM; Price Bid: 10.04.2025 at 2.00 PM; **Now Read as:** Technical Bid: 15.04.2025 at 4.00 PM; Price Bid: 19.04.2025 at 2.00 PM. All other conditions remain unaltered. **Sd/- Superintending Engineer (R&B), Headquarters Circle, Hyderabad.**

DIPR R.O.No.11527-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2024-25 Dt. 15.03.2025

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Construction Organization, Ernakulam Jn

(1)	**Tender Notice No.**	**02-CE-CN-ERS-2025-OT Dated 14/03/2025.**
	Name of work	Supply of machine between Neyyatinkara - Parassala.
	Tender Value	Rs 428.04 Lakhs
	Bid Security	Rs. 3,64,000/-
	Completion Period	10 Months
	Date and time of tender closing: 09/04/2025.	
(2)	**Tender Notice No.**	**03-CE-CN-ERS-2025 - OT Dated 14/03/2025.**
	Name of work	Irumpanam: Augmentation of freight maintenance facilities
	Tender Value	Rs 1628.27 Lakhs.
	Bid Security	Rs. 9,64,100/-
	Completion Period	18 Months
	Date and time of tender closing: 09/04/2025.	

Complete details and tender document will be available at https://www.ireps.gov.in

Chief Engineer, Construction, Ernakulam Jn

INBRIEF

Justice Bagchi to be sworn in as SC judge on Monday

Justice Joymalya Bagchi, a judge of the Calcutta High Court, will on Monday be sworn in as a Supreme Court judge. Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna will administer the oath of office to Justice Bagchi in the presence of other Supreme Court judges at a ceremony on the apex court premises. Once Justice Bagchi takes oath, the Supreme Court will have 33 judges against its sanctioned strength of 34. Justice Bagchi will have a tenure of more than six years in the top court, during which he will also serve as the CJI. Justice Bagchi will assume the office of CJI on May 25, 2031. His tenure will last till his retirement on October 2, 2031. PTI

India slams Pakistan for 'unjustified' reference to J&K

India has slammed Pakistan for its "unjustified" reference to Jammu and Kashmir in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), with New Delhi asserting that such remarks will neither validate the country's claim nor justify its practice of cross-border terrorism. "As is their habit, the former Foreign Secretary of Pakistan today has made an unjustified reference to the Indian Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir," India's Permanent Representative to the U.N., Ambassador P. Harish, said in remarks on Friday in the General Assembly at the informal meeting of the plenary to commemorate the International Day to combat Islamophobia. PTI

2 transferred Railway officials get 'punishment postings'

Two of the five railway officials shunted out after the stampede that killed 18 passengers at the New Delhi Railway Station have been given fresh postings in the Northern Railway Headquarters. The officials said these positions are considered "punishment postings" as they do not have any significant authority over rail operations. The rail administration had following the incident shunted out five officials in four separate orders. Railway sources said that a high-level inquiry is under way to fix accountability of those whose negligence led to the tragedy. "Officials guilty of negligence will not be let off with mere transfers," a railway official said. PTI

21.85% landless families in rural Odisha given land

A preliminary survey by the Odisha government has found that 44,743 rural households lack land, posing a major hurdle in providing housing under the Pradhan Mantri Aawas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) scheme. According to the State Revenue and Disaster Management Department, government processes and documentation were underway to provide homestead land to families having no land on which to construct houses. This year, 9,777 households, or 21.85% of the total number of landless families, have been granted *pattas* (records of land ownership rights). The remaining families will receive homestead *pattas* in a phased manner.

SUDOKU

6	2	5		4				
8	9				1		5	
7	4				3		2	
5		2	1		9	3		4
	3		4				6	5
	8		3				7	2
				6		5	1	8

No.SS6460 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	8	9	2	5	6	3	7	1
6	1	3	4	7	9	2	8	5
5	7	2	3	1	8	9	4	6
2	3	1	8	6	7	4	5	9
7	4	5	1	9	3	8	6	2
8	9	6	5	4	2	1	3	7
3	5	4	7	2	1	6	9	8
1	6	7	9	8	4	5	2	3
9	2	8	6	3	5	7	1	4

Anthropologists call for overhaul of criteria used for identifying STs

This is a paradigm shift in approach from Centre's five-point criteria for inclusion in the ST list; scholars, experts, officials are thinking about creating indicators, both tangible and intangible, that can be 'instinctively' agreed upon as 'tribal'

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Hundreds of communities, including the Meiteis, across the country are currently demanding inclusion in the list of Scheduled Tribes. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Top anthropologists have called for a paradigm shift in the way India defines a "tribe", overwhelmingly supporting the idea that a community's classification should be assessed on a "spectrum of tribalness" rather than the binary question of whether or not it is a tribe.

This was the broad consensus reached at a recent Indian Anthropology Congress, where the leadership of the Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI) and senior officials of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) were among the participants of a round-table discussion on the topic of "Developing a scale to distinguish tribal populations from caste-based and 'mainstream' communities".

Hundreds of communities across the country are currently demanding inclusion in the list of Scheduled Tribes, in order to access the benefits of reservation in education and jobs, and governmental aid.

The immediate trigger for the current ethnic conflict in Manipur, for instance, lay in the Meitei community's demand to be designated a Scheduled Tribe (ST), which is opposed not just by the Kuki-Zo tribes in the State but also the Naga tribes, which are not a part of the conflict.

The Union government has maintained that the criteria it uses to classify communities as ST are the ones set by the Lokur Committee in 1965. These check for "primitive traits, distinctive culture, geographical isolation, shyness of contact with the community at large, backwardness". Over the past decade, academics and expert panels inside and outside the government have termed these criteria "condescending", "obsolete", "derogatory", and "meaningless".

"The existing criteria may have made sense when they were made but they are losing meaning now. And virtually no community meets 100% of these criteria. So, instead of finding criteria that can be met fully, the idea is to see if we can build a tool to assess the 'tribalness' of the community," AnSI Director B.V. Sharma told *The Hindu*.

Concept note

Noting the "persistent difficulty" in defining tribal populations and "the need for a systematic tool to ensure accurate classification", the round-table's concept note emphasised that "this initiative aligns with constitutional mandates and will assist tribal research institutions (TRIs) in preparing ethnographic reports for policymaking."

This shift in understanding how to define "tribes" will invariably require extensive deliberations on overhauling the existing criteria for classifying communities as Scheduled Tribe, the anthropologists and officials said, adding that the idea is to build a "matrix or spectrum" of as many detailed characteristics as possible, with a weight assigned to each, so that a "degree of tribalness" of the community can be determined.

Dr. Sharma explained that any new scale to define tribes in India will have to consider a host of characteristics. "It may not have to be restricted to just five. It could be as many as 150 indicators," he said

"When an ethnographic report (ER) is prepared to assess claims of inclusion, some guidelines must be there. Then, officials doing the ER can keep in mind what is required," he said.

India currently has more than 756 entries in the list of Scheduled Tribes. Since the previous Census was conducted in 2011, at least 27 communities have been added to the ST list - five as main entries and 22 as sub-entries - even as hundreds of other communities seek to be added to the list, these demands leading to inter-community conflicts in some cases.

Now, instead of looking at the traits as set out by the Lokur Committee, scholars, experts, and officials are thinking about creating indicators, both tangible and intangible, that can be "instinctively" agreed upon as "tribal". And this time, the focus is on social institutions such as marriage, kinship, classification of relatives, rituals in practice, language, and the "materiality of cultural indicators", including headgear or weaponry.

Civilisational approach

In building such a tool, Dr. Sharma said that India will be able to also account for how communities like to see themselves as opposed to how they have been studied for long - as the "other". S.M. Patnaik, who heads Delhi University's Anthropology Department and participated in the round-table, added that there was a need to move from the "evolutionary" approach used in places such as Australia and China to a more "historical or civilisational" approach.

2 missing boys reunited with their families in Kathua

Press Trust of India
JAMMU

Two boys, who went missing last month, were reunited with their families in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district on Saturday.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Shobit Saxena said the boys, Deen (14) and Rehmat Ali (11), were reported missing by their families after they had gone to graze cattle near a goat farm in Bhamberwah on February 28.

"After hectic efforts, the police found the missing boys and reunited them with their families," he told presspersons in Kathua.

The SSP said the police registered an FIR soon after the families of the boys reported the matter on March 9 and circulated lookout posters in different languages. The families were frantic with worry as in the past two months, five civilians had gone missing and were later found dead in Kathua district.

Safe now

"The children have not been with their families for the past two weeks and are a little nervous. We will come to know all the details gradually and are also planning to engage counselors for them," Mr. Saxena said, adding that all the aspects have been kept open to investigate the case properly. He, however, said there was nothing much to worry about and "we are happy that both children are in good health".

Billion-dollar fund to support creators' economy: I&B Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The funds will be used to enable creators to enhance their skills and upgrade their production, says Ashwini Vaishnaw. PTI

The Union government has announced that it will invest $1 billion to support the "creators' economy" in the country. The funds will be used to enable creators to enhance their skills, upgrade their production, and expand into global markets, according to Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

Earlier this week, the government hosted a high-level session to engage the international community ahead of the World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) 2025, which is slated to take place in Mumbai from May 1-4.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, Mr. Vaishnaw, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, and Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting L. Murugan were present at the high-level session, as were about 100 Ambassadors and High Commissioners.

A key highlight of the event was a Memorandum of Understanding exchange between the I&B Ministry and the Maharashtra government for strengthening collaboration in media, entertainment, and digital outreach.

"The intersection of creativity, media and technology is transforming the media landscape of the world and reaching a new level of convergence...we are inviting some of the biggest names of technology, media and entertainment for WAVES 2025...," Mr. Vaishnaw said.

Fostering innovation

"WAVES will serve as a pivotal platform for fostering discussions, collaboration, and innovation for the Media and Entertainment industry," Mr. Jaishankar said in his address. He said that the economic and political rebalancing was moving towards cultural balancing. "We are not truly global if we are not truly local. WAVES 2025 captures the spirit of this endeavour," he said, urging the Ambassadors and High Commissioners to familiarise their governments regarding the opportunities of global collaborations under WAVES 2025.

The participants were required to make 60-second films on the theme of humanity and technology. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Girls lead in entries for WAVES young filmmakers contest

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Close to 60% of the finalists in the WAVES-2025 Young Filmmakers Challenge, organised by Whistling Woods International in partnership with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, are women candidates.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Chaitanya Chinchlikar of Whistling Woods International said over 1,000 entries were received from close to 80 cities and towns across the country. The competition has heralded a new wave of female storytellers making their mark in the industry.

"The participants are students from two age groups, 12-15 and 16-19. They were required to make 60-second films on the theme of humanity and technology.

The top 10 entries were selected in each category, following which the finalists were brought to Mumbai to attend a two-day workshop and feedback session with filmmaker Amole Gupte. Based on the feedback, they can now reshoot their films for presentation before the final jury selection at the WAVES finale event in May," he said.

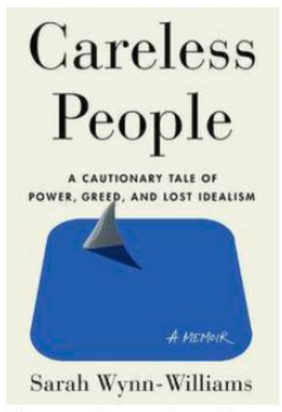
"In the comprehensive film-making/digital video production workshop students received both creative and technical guidance from Mr. Gupte and the Whistling Woods faculty as well," he said.

Mr. Chinchlikar said the challenge was an opportunity for all the young minds to express their creativity and originality of ideas through their films. "The participants submitted entries on all formats, including mobile phones. They displayed impressive skills...one entry involved using as high as 15 shots in just a 60-second video," he said.

"While most of the entries focussed on issues related to the adverse impact of technology on human life, there were a few highlighting its positives. There were three teams from municipal level schools in Delhi...a female student created a film on a mobile app and its importance for her 'rickshaw wala' father and the family. The entries are a reflection of the socio-economic background of creators and their relationship with technology," he said.

Facebook hired 'ex-police captain' in India to go to jail on its behalf: memoir

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI



The cover image released by Flatiron Books.

Social media and communications giant Meta hired an "ex-police captain" in India to undergo arrest in case executives were targeted in government raids. This claim has been made by former Meta executive Sarah Wynn-Williams in a newly released memoir, *Careless People*, whose publication the Facebook and WhatsApp parent is seeking to thwart. However, the book remains on sale in India.

"This book is a mix of out-of-date and previously reported claims about the company and false accusations about our executives," a Meta spokesperson told *The Hindu*, without providing specific responses to India-related claims in the book.

The representative said that Ms. Wynn-Williams was fired for poor performance and has since been paid by anti-Facebook activists.

On India, the author writes: "In India, the situation's so bad, Facebook's leadership hires an ex-police captain who's been given some boring, official-sounding title but is understood by the policy team to be someone who 'would be able to handle an arrest situation well' – that is, go to jail in a clash between Facebook and the Indian government." The company was not yet renamed to Meta at this point.

The memoir revisits discussions around Free Basics, a programme providing limited Internet access to low-income users, which was banned in India for violating Net Neutrality.

She describes an internal effort to generate public support, including mass email campaigns that frustrated India's Telecom Regulatory Authority (TRAI). Despite Facebook urging users to send 16 million emails in support, TRAI counted only 1.4 million, sending executives into panic. Reportedly, an official at TRAI simply opted-out from all emails from Facebook in a bid to stop the campaign.

INBRIEF

Standard Chartered raises €1 billion via first social bond

Standard Chartered has raised €1 billion (about ₹9,400 crore) via issuance of the first social bond which will support sustainable development projects across the bank's emerging market footprint, including India. The bond will primarily facilitate lending to small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), ensuring access to finance, helping create jobs and empowering and nurturing women-owned SMEs. About 50% would be allocated for India. PTI

'Govt. to solve consumer plaints at pre-litigation stage'

The government is putting in place an ecosystem to resolve consumer complaints at pre-litigation stage, Consumer Affairs Secretary Nidhi Khare said. Speaking at a World Consumer Rights Day webinar, Ms. Khare said hassle-free, speedy, and cost-effective platform via the National Consumer Helpline (NCH) system has been created to resolve consumer grievances. Going forward, NCH 3.0 – third phase of modernisation – will resolve complaints in a shorter time, she said. PTI

'Realty firms buy 6,000 acre land in 22-24 for ₹90,000 cr.'

Real estate developers acquired 5,885 acre land during 2022-24 for ₹90,000 crore for projects amid strong demand for housing and commercial assets, JLL India said. Real estate consultant JLL India data showed real estate developers bought 1,603 acre of land in 2022 for ₹18,112 crore, 1,947 acre in 2023 for ₹32,203 crore. During 2024, the land acquisition by developers touched 2,335 acre. The data includes only outright purchases by real estate developers, the consultant said. PTI

IndusInd Bank's financial health is stable: RBI

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Amid speculation relating to IndusInd Bank Ltd.'s financial health in certain quarters and the fall in it's share prices due to the discovery of discrepancy in it's derivatives portfolio which will have an impact of 2.35% to it's net worth, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Saturday clarified the bank was well-capitalised and the financial position was satisfactory.

The RBI said it directed the board and the management of the bank to ensure remedial action was completed fully during Q4FY25 after making required disclosures to stakeholders.

"As such, there is no need for depositors to react to the speculative reports at this juncture. The bank's financial health remains stable and is being monitored closely by Reserve Bank," the RBI said.

The regulator said as per auditor-reviewed financial results of the bank for the quarter ended December 31, 2024, the bank maintained comfortable capital adequacy ratio of 16.46%. The Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) of the bank was 113% as on March 9, 2025 against the regulatory requirement of 100%.

"Basis disclosures available in public domain, the bank has already engaged an external audit team to review their current systems, and to assess and account for the actual impact expeditiously," it said.

MF inflows overtake bank FDs

Mutual funds outperform bank deposits in inflows despite market turbulence, attracting young investors seeking long-term wealth creation; 'new tax regime has taken away the 80C tax benefit and made five-year bank FDs unattractive'

Suresh P. Iyengar
MUMBAI

Despite volatility in the equity market, mutual fund (MF) inflows over the past 11 months have far exceeded bank deposits.

In the last 11 months of the current fiscal, growth in banks' time (fixed) deposits slowed to 9.2% (or up by ₹17.29-lakh crore) against 11.2% (₹18.69-lakh crore) in the year ago period, per RBI data.

In the same period, inflows into mutual funds were up 90% at ₹9.79-lakh crore (₹5.14-lakh crore), as per the Association of Mutual Funds in India data.

Beating odds: Even after all noise and recent fall in equity markets, the three-year MF equity returns are positive. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

In fact, the growth in overall bank deposit slowed compared with that of MFs. Bank deposits, including savings and time deposits, grew 8% year-on-year to ₹231-lakh crore against ₹213-lakh crore as at February-end 2024.

In the same period, MF industry recorded a 24% rise in Assets Under Management at ₹68-lakh crore (₹55 lakh crore).

Young investors

Sunil Subramaniam, CEO of independent think-tank Sense and Simplicity, said MFs will continue to attract more money than bank deposits as young investors are willing to take the additional risk for creating long-term wealth.

Even after all the noise and the recent fall in equity markets, the three-year MF equity returns are positive and investors are confident of beating market volatility via SIPs, he said.

New tax regime

Also, the new tax regime has somewhat eased investor concern on tax implications and made young investors bet big on MFs.

The new tax regime has taken away the 80C tax benefit and made the five-year bank fixed deposits unattractive.

While Equity Linked Savings Scheme (ELSS) has also become less attractive under the new tax regime, people are no longer considering MFs from a tax savings perspective alone, said Mr. Subramaniam.

Govt. in final stages of FTAs with U.S., U.K., EU, says Goyal

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

The government is at the final stages of free trade agreements with a few countries, indicated the Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal at a recent meeting with representatives of export promotion councils (EPCs) and industry associations in New Delhi.

On the ongoing efforts on bilateral agreements, Mr. Goyal said the Government is concurrently working on several tracks and each of them is aimed at ensuring the best interest of Indian exporters, an official release stated.

Piyush Goyal

"The Minister told us that there are teams working on trade agreements with the U.S., the U.K., and the EU and that there will be a positive announcement soon regarding at least one or two countries," an exporter who attended the meeting told *The Hindu*.

The Minister is positive that it will lead to better opportunities for Indian exporters and will also bring in higher investments, the release added.

On the impending reciprocal tariffs against India, by the U.S., the Minister cautioned EPCs to "come out of their protectionist mindset and encouraged them to be bold and ready to deal with the world from a position of strength and self-confidence."

Mr. Goyal sought EPCs to reflect on their strengths and share their demands.

Forex kitty jumps sharpest in 2 years

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

In the sharpest jump in more than two years, the country's foreign exchange reserves increased by $15.267 billion to $653.966 billion during the week ended March 7, RBI said.

Overall reserves had dropped by $1.781 billion to $638.698 billion in the previous week.

The reserves had been on a declining trend recently due to revaluation along with forex market interventions by RBI to help reduce rupee volatility.

The reserves rose to an all-time high of $704.885 billion at end-September 2024. The sharp rise is being attributed to the $10 billion forex swap undertaken by the RBI on February 28, when it bought dollars against rupee to inject liquidity in the system.

The sharp rise is attributed to the $10 billion forex swap undertaken by the RBI.

'Flexible payment, digital tools can cut medical care costs'

Improving the medical infrastructure is also a key aspect in building a robust healthcare ecosystem that ensures accessibility and affordability, says the chief of Aster DM Healthcare

INTERVIEW

Azad Moopen

Lalatendu Mishra

With digital interventions such as telemedicine platforms, AI-driven diagnostics and mobile health initiatives ensuring access for patients to specialists and timely interventions, going forward, innovative financing solutions, including flexible payment plans, bundled care packages and digital tools that provide real-time cost estimates and insurance eligibility, would help patients make informed choices and access affordable healthcare, says Dr. Azad Moopen, founder & chairman, Aster DM Healthcare in an interview.

Healthcare costs can be a challenge for many in India. What are the key factors driving these high costs and how can they be addressed?

A significant portion of healthcare costs is linked to the rising adoption of cutting-edge medical technologies, which enhance diagnostic accuracy and treatment precision. Simultaneously, the growing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and cancer requires sustained, long-term care, adding to overall expenditure.

Encouraging domestic innovation in medical devices and pharmaceuticals, investing in preventive health and strengthening early screening programmes will significantly lower the need for expensive interventions. Collaboration across sectors – involving healthcare providers, technology innovators, insurers, and policymakers – will be key to striking right balance between cost and quality.

How can we ensure that quality healthcare is accessible and affordable for a larger section of society?

India's strength lies in its ability to innovate and find scalable solutions that work for its vast and diverse population. Expanding access to quality healthcare calls for a strong focus on primary and preventive care, complemented by advancements in digital health solutions.

Telemedicine platforms, AI-driven diagnostics, and mobile health initiatives have already demonstrated tremendous potential in reaching remote communities, ensuring access to specialists and timely interventions.

Going forward, innovative financing solutions including flexible payment plans, bundled care packages, and digital tools that provide real-time cost estimates and insurance eligibility, will empower patients to make informed choices. Through technology-enabled efficiencies, operational excellence, and clinical innovation, healthcare providers can work together to make quality care financially accessible to a far larger section of society.

Government plans aid underprivileged, and wealthy can manage medical costs, but what about the 400 million middle-class Indians?

India's vibrant and aspirational middle class is one of the backbones of the nation's economic progress, and ensuring their health security is an equally important priority. The penetration of health insurance is steadily increasing, particularly post-COVID, but it is a long way to go.

As per NITI Aayog, nearly 400 million Indians lack access to healthcare. While approximately 70% of the population is covered under public or voluntary health insurance, the remaining 30% – equivalent to around 40 crore people – remain uninsured.

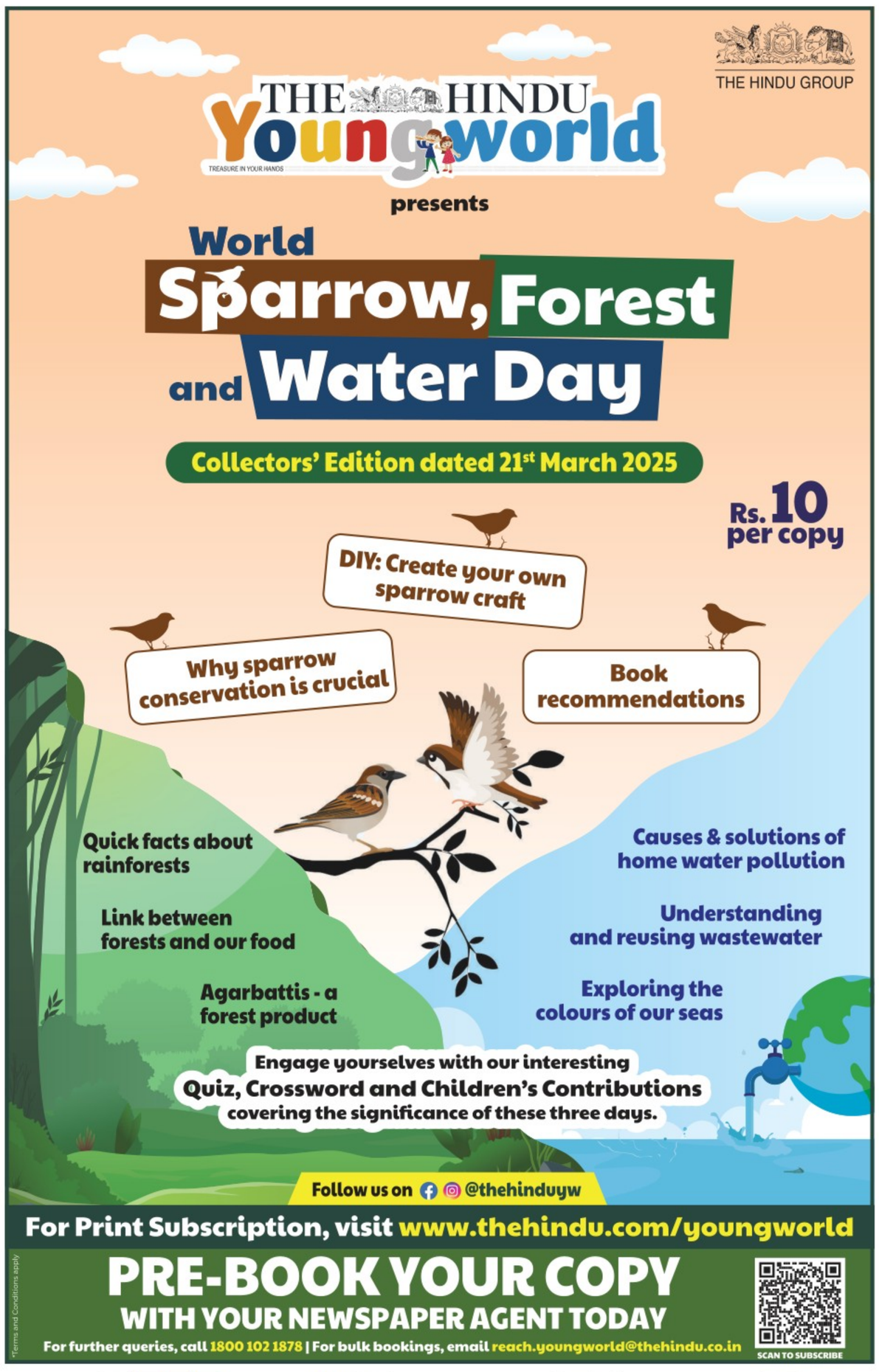
The out of pocket expenditure, though as per the data by National Health Accounts Estimates 2020-21 and 2021-22 saw a decline from 64.2% in 2013-14 to 39.4% in 2021-22, it is till a long way to go.

In addition, hospitals and healthcare providers need to provide greater transparency around treatment costs, along with curated health packages and structured payment plans.

Digital platforms that enable real-time cost estimation, insurance eligibility checks, and seamless cashless transactions will further enhance affordability.

What steps can India take to provide high-quality and affordable care for all?

Improving the medical infrastructure is also a key aspect in building a robust healthcare ecosystem that ensures accessibility and affordability. The government's commitment to adding 75,000 MBBS seats over the next five years and the number of medical colleges growing from 387 to 702 in the last 10 years is a positive step forward in addressing the gap.



Increasing greenhouse gas emissions may threaten satellites

The Hindu Bureau

Increasing levels of human-caused greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere may reduce the total number of satellites that can safely orbit Earth by up to 66% of the current carrying capacity by the end of the century, under a high-emissions scenario. The findings from the modelling study are described in *Nature Sustainability*.

Previous research has established that an increasing amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere can shrink Earth's upper atmosphere – consisting of the mesosphere (50-85 km) and thermosphere (85-600 km) – as incoming infrared radiation is reflected into space, resulting in a cooling and contracting effect. This contraction reduces the density of Earth's orbital space, lengthening the amount of time space debris remains in orbit as drag with the atmosphere is reduced. As the number of satellites in Earth's orbit increases, persistent space debris poses a growing problem for the long-term use of Earth's orbital space.

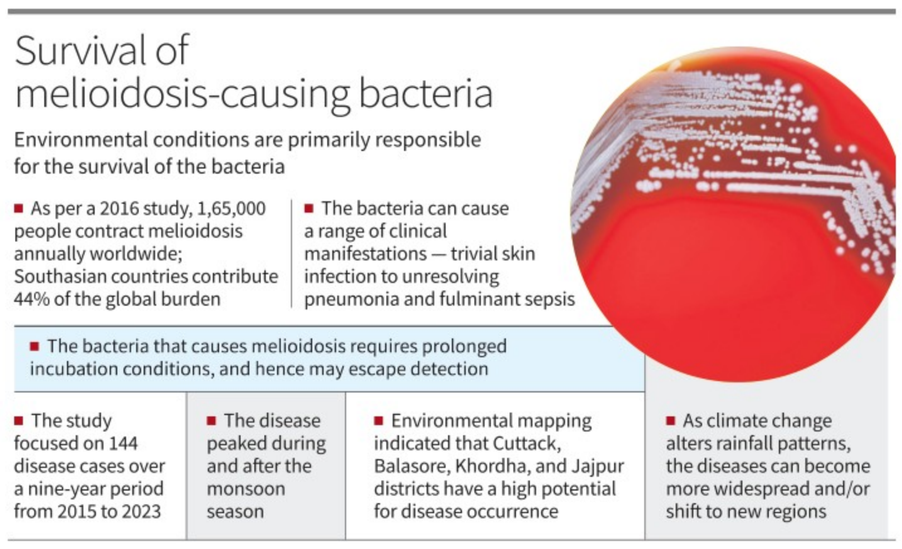
Dr. William Parker from MIT Cambridge and colleagues used atmospheric modelling to estimate the number of satellites that can be sustainably maintained in Earth's orbit by 2100 under different emission scenarios. Using the greenhouse gas concentration in the year 2000 as a baseline, the authors found that the maximum number of satellites that can be sustainably managed in low Earth orbit will be 50-66% less by 2100, dependent on solar activity, under the highest-emission Shared Socio-economic Pathway (SSP5-8.5) scenario. This is equivalent to approximately 25-40 million satellites. They also estimated the ideal distribution of orbital objects and deviations from this ideal distribution observed under different emission scenarios. The authors show a large decrease in the rate of satellites deorbiting through friction with the atmosphere under the moderate to highest scenario carbon dioxide emission rates.

The authors suggest that mitigating greenhouse gas emissions is not only important for Earth's climate but also for preserving our access to and use of outer space.

Environmental mapping reveals melioidosis peak during monsoon

A study has revealed that melioidosis disease in Odisha has clear seasonality, with infections peaking during and after the monsoon season. Disease occurrence is also linked to temperature, cloud cover and solar radiation

B. Behera
T.S. Sarin
V. Vinoj



Globally, research on climate/environmentally driven infectious diseases has been largely biased towards vector-borne diseases like malaria, dengue, etc. Melioidosis is a bacterial infectious disease caused by *Burkholderia pseudomallei*, and is primarily acquired by inoculation, inhalation and/or ingestion of soil- and water-dwelling environmental saprophytes. The disease is strongly influenced by environmental factors such as rainfall, temperature, and humidity. In 2016, *The Lancet* , based on a prediction modelling study, reported that about 1,65,000 people contract melioidosis annually worldwide, of which South Asia, including India, contributes to 44% of the global burden of melioidosis. The report attracted enormous scrutiny and attention by the medical fraternity, and microbiologists and clinicians in a few selected centres across India took cognisance of the situation to further unravel the mysterious disease.

There are many reasons why the melioidosis-causing bacteria, described over a hundred years ago, has continued to baffle the medical fraternity. First, the bacteria have a unique ability to cause a plethora of clinical manifestations ranging from a trivial skin infection to unresolving pneumonia and fulminant sepsis. With fatality as high as 50% in septicaemic cases, melioidosis is a medical conundrum. Second, the *B. pseudomallei* bacteria requires prolonged incubation conditions, and can escape detection in inexperienced microbiology laboratories, as chances of misidentification with common bacteria like *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* are quite common. Third, the treatment of melioidosis is quite different from other infectious diseases as it requires an initial intravenous therapy followed by a prolonged eradication phase of 12-20 weeks. This puts a significant emphasis on correct diagnosis, as inadequate treatment runs a risk of recurrence.

In India, melioidosis research has mainly focused on understanding the disease from the host perspective, like presence of comorbidities like diabetes, chronic renal diseases, etc and occupational factors like farming and behavioural factors like alcoholism, which increases the likelihood of diseases. In Odisha, melioidosis cases are being reported at AIIMS Bhubaneswar, with cases increasing over the years.

Odisha with vast agricultural areas and extreme weather events present ample opportunities for human exposure to the bacteria. Environmental conditions are primarily responsible for the survival of the melioidosis-causing bacteria, thus making a strong case for investigation. With this in mind, microbiologists at AIIMS Bhubaneswar and climate scientists at IIT Bhubaneswar have collaborated to identify and track the conditions that may facilitate the occurrence of melioidosis in Odisha. To investigate this, the team tracked each reported disease case, correlating it with the patient's home location and possible incubation periods to identify the most common environmental conditions that may have facilitated disease transmission. The study focused on 144 disease cases over a nine-year period from 2015 to 2023. The team analysed meteorological parameters, including rainfall, temperature, humidity, and solar radiation, across more than 3,024 days during this period to identify the most favourable conditions for bacterial survival and, consequently, transmission. Using this information, the team created a map identifying potential regions for disease occurrence, using 10 km grid sizes to cover the entire State of Odisha.

'Clear seasonality'

The analysis, which was recently published in the journal *Current Research in Microbial Sciences*, revealed that the disease exhibited a clear seasonality, with infections peaking during and after the monsoon season. Disease occurrence also exhibited relationships with temperature, rainfall, cloud cover and solar radiation. The mapping indicated that districts such as Cuttack, Balasore, Khordha, and Jajpur have a high potential for disease occurrence. Interestingly, these areas also coincide with some of the most densely populated regions in the State. Other elements, such as land use changes, soil composition, are likely to influence disease dynamics. Due to data limitations, the team was unable to include these factors in the study. Rapid urbanisation, poor sanitation, may further heighten risk by increasing human exposure to contaminated environments. Additionally, as climate change alters rainfall patterns and intensifies extreme weather events, these diseases could become more widespread and/or shift to new regions. Therefore, public health systems must adapt by incorporating climate analytics into their disease surveillance and prediction efforts.

This study also highlights the potential of climate-driven disease modeling beyond melioidosis, especially for diseases influenced by environmental factors. Incorporating weather and climate data into public health planning could improve outbreak predictions, enhance preparedness, and reduce health risks.

Odisha's experience could provide a valuable model for other regions, highlighting the importance of combining climate science with medical research to address emerging health risks.

(*B. Behera is Professor, Department of Microbiology, AIIMS Bhubaneswar; T.S. Sarin is PhD scholar at the School of Earth Ocean and Climate Sciences, IIT Bhubaneswar; and V. Vinoj is Associate Professor, School of Earth Ocean and Climate Sciences, IIT Bhubaneswar*)

Treating chikungunya using HIV/AIDS drug efavirenz

R. Prasad

A preliminary study has found that efavirenz – a non-nucleoside inhibitor of HIV virus that is used for treating HIV/AIDS – can be repurposed for the treatment of chikungunya. Currently, no antiviral compound has been approved for treating chikungunya and only a limited number of novel compounds have been tested against the virus in animal models.

Chikungunya reappeared in India in 2006 after a long gap of 20-30 years. In 2006, chikungunya virus was clinically suspected in nearly 14 million people and was laboratory-confirmed in 2,001 cases. Since 2006, chikungunya cases have been reported from various parts of India but gradually declined until 2014. Chikungunya cases have been reported in a large number of people since 2018.

Researchers from the Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering at IIT Roorkee tested the efavirenz drug both in cell lines and in mouse models and found the drug to significantly reduce the viral load by inhibiting the replication of the chikungunya virus. In cell lines, the HIV/AIDS drug efavirenz inhibited the replication by almost 99% even at low micromolar concentrations. In the case of mice, the efavirenz treatment "significantly" reduced chikungunya viral load, which in turn decreased the propagation of the virus in the mice footpad. The results were published in the journal *ACS Infectious Diseases*.

Laboratory studies were first carried out using Vero cells. To validate the finding observed, the team led by Dr. Shailly Tomar from IIT Roorkee, examined the inhibitory activity of efavirenz in human hepatic cell lines. Hepatic cell lines were chosen as chikungunya virus targets the hepatocytes – the functional cells of the liver, in the natural course of infection.

Main carrier: Aedes aegypti mosquitoes transmit chikungunya virus to people. REUTERS

Vero cells were treated with efavirenz at different time periods of infection – from two hours before infection to zero, two, four, six, eight, 10 and 12 hours post-infection. And the drug was found to prominently and significantly inhibit virus replication up to six-eight hours post-infection. "The experiment demonstrated that the drug acts during the early phase of chikungunya replication after virus entry," says Sanketkumar Nehul from IIT Roorkee and the first author of the paper.

"In different lab-grown cells, it was observed that efavirenz can inhibit the replication of almost 99% of the virus at low micromolar concentrations. Viral replication was also inhibited when Chikungunya-infected mice were treated with the efavirenz," says Dr. Tomar. "It was also observed that the efavirenz is also able to inhibit the replication of Sindbis virus, which is evolutionarily closely related to the chikungunya virus."

In mice, swelling of the limb inoculated with chikungunya virus was observed post-infection, which peaked on the second and sixth day post-infection. While earlier studies in mice have reported a decrease in swelling post-treatment with other anti-chikungunya virus compounds, treatment with efavirenz led to a significant increase in the swelling. According to the authors, the increased swelling of the limbs can be explained by pro-inflammatory action of efavirenz. Though treatment with efavirenz led to increased swelling, there was significant reduction in the viral load.

The paper cites a 43-year-old HIV positive person infected with chikungunya virus and who was being treated with antiretroviral drugs, including efavirenz, displaying improved condition. Though the improvement with respect to chikungunya infection cannot be completely attributed to efavirenz as he was treated with other drugs, the findings nevertheless are in line with the anti-chikungunya virus activity observed in the current study.

"Based on good pharmacokinetics properties, previous successful applications of efavirenz to treat HIV infection, and the demonstrated anti-chikungunya activity in this study, efavirenz shows high potential for repurposing against human chikungunya infections and further clinical human trials can be conducted in this direction," Dr. Tomar says.

SNAPSHOTS

Symptoms of Long COVID can last up to two years

A study has revealed that 23% of people infected with SARS-CoV-2 between 2021 and 2023 developed Long COVID, and in more than 50% the symptoms persisted for two years. The risk of developing Long COVID was lower in people who were infected after the Omicron variant became dominant. Based on the symptoms reported, the researchers identified three clinical subtypes of long-COVID – whether the symptoms were neurological and musculoskeletal, respiratory, or severe and involved multiple organs.

Older adults might be more resistant to bird flu infections

Prior exposures to specific types of seasonal influenza viruses promote cross-reactive immunity against the H5N1 avian influenza virus, according to a new study. Older adults who were exposed to seasonal flu viruses that circulated prior to 1968 were found to be more likely to have antibodies that bind to the H5N1 avian flu virus. The findings suggest that younger adults and children would benefit more from H5N1 vaccines, even those not tailored specifically to the current strain circulating in birds and cattle.

Mother's high-fat diet can cause liver stress in foetus

When mothers eat a diet high in fat and sugars, their unborn babies can develop liver stress. The study sheds light on changes to the fetus's bile acid, which affects how liver disease develops and progresses. Excessive bile acid levels can damage the liver. While the mother can detoxify the acids, the foetus lacks that ability. Bile acids may re-circulate to the mother for detoxification, but if they do not, they build up in the foetal liver, setting the stage for future problems.

Question Corner

Ancient grasslands

How long does it take for bees to return to restored grasslands?

Recovered grasslands need more than 75 years of continuous management to regain their biodiversity because specialised pollinators are slow to return. It takes 75 years of continuous management for the plant diversity in recovered grasslands to finally reach levels comparable to ancient grasslands. However, that's still not enough for the pollinator community. Even after 75 years, pollinators are still less specialised and less successful at pollinating the plants, although the community continuously shifts towards higher specialisation and successful pollination as grasslands get older. What drives this lag is not a lower diversity of pollinators in itself, it is the identity of the pollinators. The study therefore shows the importance of considering pollinator communities for efforts targeting the conservation of threatened grassland plants. First of all, this means that maintaining ancient grasslands as reserves for specialised pollinators should be a top priority for conservationists.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

What is the reach of an ICC warrant?

What are the implications of former Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte's arrest on the direction of the ICC?

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:

Former Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte was flown to the Netherlands on March 12 to face charges of crimes against humanity before the International Criminal Court (ICC) for his role in the deadly "war on drugs" during his tenure.

What was Duterte's 'war on drugs'?

In a statement, the court said its Pre-Trial chamber had reviewed evidence from the Office of the Prosecutor and found reasonable grounds to believe he is "individually responsible as an indirect co-perpetrator for the crime against humanity of murder, allegedly committed in the Philippines between November 1, 2011, and March 16, 2019." The ICC's investigation into extrajudicial drug-related killings under Mr. Duterte covers his tenure as Davao City mayor, starting in 2011, through his presidency, which ended in 2022. By the end of his term, human rights groups and the ICC prosecutor estimated that police and unidentified assailants had killed approximately 30,000 people.

Where do domestic politics stand?

Despite its expansive mandate, the court lacks enforcement authority and relies on national governments to execute its warrants, rendering it vulnerable to domestic political considerations.

> Rodrigo Duterte's indictment is a rare triumph for the ICC, unlike its largely symbolic arrest warrants for Vladimir Putin and Benjamin Netanyahu, which remain unenforced

Mr. Duterte withdrew the Philippines from the ICC's jurisdiction in 2019, yet prosecutors argued they retained authority to investigate alleged crimes against humanity committed before the withdrawal. A formal investigation was launched in 2021. Initially, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. refused to cooperate, but his position shifted following the collapse of the Duterte-Marcos alliance.

Mr. Marcos has maintained that the Philippine government was merely upholding its obligations to Interpol by facilitating the execution of the ICC warrant. Since taking office, he has made no effort to rejoin the court.

Does the ICC have jurisdiction?

Mr. Duterte and his allies have long contested the ICC's jurisdiction, citing the Philippines' 2019 withdrawal from the Rome Statute. In January 2023, the ICC authorised its prosecutor to resume an investigation into the killings, reversing a 2021 suspension granted at the Philippines' request. The Philippines government had argued that its institutions were capable of prosecuting the alleged crimes, invoking the principle of complementarity, which limits ICC intervention to cases where national courts are "unable or unwilling" to act. The Pre-Trial Chamber rejected this claim, ruling that the Philippines had not demonstrated sufficient efforts to warrant a deferral.

Under the Rome Statute, all 125 signatory states are required to arrest and surrender individuals facing ICC warrants if they enter their territory. However, compliance remains inconsistent. Non-compliance leads to a referral to the Assembly of States Parties, the court's governing body, and ultimately to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). When the UNSC invokes the court's jurisdiction, all relevant UN member-states are obligated to cooperate, regardless of their status under the Rome Statute.

What are the implications for the court?

Mr. Duterte's indictment is a rare triumph for the ICC, unlike its largely symbolic arrest warrants for Russia's Vladimir Putin and Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu, which remain unenforced.

However, the arrest is not without risks for the court. The ICC is an embattled institution these days, with the Trump administration threatening to arrest its top officials over investigations of Israel, a close U.S. ally.

China has also warned against politicising ICC cases. Though not a signatory to the Rome Statute, it is embroiled in a territorial dispute with the Philippines over the South China Sea. Beijing's statement was a thinly veiled critique of how a case meant to ensure accountability for grave international crimes has instead become a battleground for domestic political rivalry.

What lies ahead for Duterte?

During the proceedings before the Pre-Trial Chamber, Mr. Duterte's lawyer argued that his arrest and extradition from Manila to the Netherlands constituted "pure and simple kidnapping." The next step is a hearing to confirm the charges the prosecutor intends to pursue, during which Mr. Duterte may also apply for interim release. Only after this hearing will the court decide whether to proceed with a trial. A trial, if approved, is unlikely to begin anytime soon.

Why has India got another tiger reserve?

Where is Madhav National Park located? What is its tiger population? What are the factors under consideration before a national park can become a designated tiger reserve? What is the tiger population in the country according to the 2023 tiger census?

Jacob Koshy

The story so far:

On March 9, Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav announced that the Centre had declared the Madhav National Park in Madhya Pradesh as the country's 58th tiger reserve. This is the ninth tiger reserve in the State, the highest among the States. Maharashtra has six; Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka have five each.

What is the rationale behind setting up tiger reserves?

While tigers were historically abundant in India, hunting, poaching and the colonial exploitation of forests for timber started a precipitous decline in their numbers in the early 20th century. It was estimated in 1964 that there would have been around 40,000 tigers in the country at the turn of the 20th century. By the 1960s, these numbers were down to between 2,000 and 4,000, attributed to wanton hunting aided by a proliferation of gun licences issued in the years following 1947, improved access to the forest, clearing of large tracts of forests for various purposes, mushrooming of the new businesses of "Shikar Companies" and fur trade.

Following an alarm raised by naturalists, the Indian Board for Wild Life (IBWL) – the earlier avatar of the National Board for Wild Life – in a meeting in New Delhi in July, 1969 recommended a total ban on the export of all wild cat skins, including tigers. The same year, the 10th Assembly of International Union for Conservation of Nature met in Delhi and included the tiger in its "Red Data Book" as an endangered species and adopted a resolution calling for a ban on the killing of tigers. When numbers further dwindled to nearly 1,863, then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi commissioned an 11-member Task Force to investigate the problem and prepare a project to preserve the tiger in the wild in India. In August 1972, the Task Force recommended eight tiger forests spread across India to be brought under the purview of 'Project Tiger,' as this mission came to be called. On April 1, 1973, Project Tiger was inaugurated at Corbett tiger reserve with nine tiger reserves announced across India – Corbett (then in Uttar Pradesh, now in Uttarakhand), Palamau (then in Bihar, now in Jharkhand), Simlipal (Odisha), Sundarbans (West Bengal), Manas (Assam), Ranthambore (Rajasthan), Kanha (Madhya Pradesh), Melghat (Maharashtra) and Bandipur (Karnataka) - which were representative of the various tiger habitats in the country.

> The Madhav National Park is an important connecting corridor to Ranthambore tiger reserve in Rajasthan

What does establishing a tiger reserve entail?

The Project Tiger (replaced by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) since 2006) guidelines made it mandatory for every tiger reserve to be managed in accordance with a site-specific management plan. Project Tiger established a template for scientific management of protected areas in India. It laid down the concept of establishing a 'core zone' and a 'buffer zone', prescribed interventions for protection, habitat improvement, field data collection relating to change in the composition of flora and fauna on account of protection, animal estimation and other aspects. The guidelines also established Tiger Conservation Plans to ensure: i) Protection and site specific habitat managements for viable population of tigers, prey and co-predators, ii) ecologically compatible land uses in the tiger reserves and areas linking one protected area or tiger reserve to another for addressing the livelihood concerns of local people. The NTCA guidelines for preparing Tiger Conservation Plans, cognizant of constraints imposed by small reserves embedded in human land uses, aimed to create source populations within tiger reserves with corridor links between sources and to sink habitats. Sources are places where animal numbers are growing, and sinks are where they are dwindling, and must be supplemented by bringing in animals to boost numbers to sustainable numbers. To establish a reserve, the Centre gets a proposal from the State, the NTCA recommends the proposal to the State after due diligence, the State government notifies the area as a Tiger Reserve.

How are tiger reserves funded?

Under Project Tiger guidelines, 60% of the funds for conservation are provided by the Centre, while the rest is borne by the concerned State. In the case of Northeastern and Himalayan States, the Centre covers 90% of the funds. These activities include anti-poaching initiatives, habitat improvement and water development, addressing human-animal conflicts, designating inviolate spaces, and relocating villages from critical tiger habitats within a timeframe by offering a better relocation package. It also supports States in settling the rights of displaced people, rehabilitating traditional hunting tribes living in and around tiger reserves, conducting independent monitoring, and evaluating tiger reserves.

Why is the Madhav National Park important?

With an estimated area of 165.32 sq km, it was first notified as a National Park in Madhya Pradesh in 1956 under the MP National Parks Act, 1955. Now, the Madhav National Park and tiger reserve has a core area of 355 sq km, with a buffer zone of 4-6 sq km. It did not have a tiger population till 2023, when a male tiger and two females were relocated there. Today, the population has grown to seven. However, the Madhav reserve is an important connecting corridor to the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan. It is also connected to Kuno National Park, which now has a captive cheetah population. Experts speculate that there could be competition among these predators for the prey base of deer, leading to its complex dynamics.

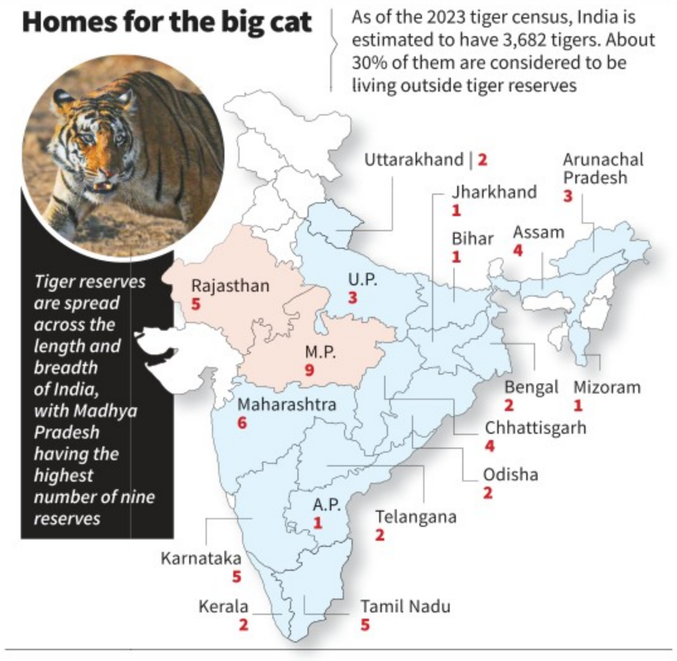
Madhya Pradesh boasts several prominent tiger reserves, such as Kanha, Panna, and Bandhavgarh. Due to successful conservation strategies, the State has the highest number of tigers (785). However, the Kuno-Madhav forest division, in the northern part of the State, has historically been relatively neglected. With Kuno gaining prominence as an emerging cheetah reserve, a more centralised management strategy is expected to oversee both cheetah and tiger populations, contributing to the region's long-term development as a wildlife spot.

There are plans to introduce lions from Gir in Gujarat into Kuno National Park, after the Supreme Court green-lit the project. In March 2023, the government told the Supreme Court that relocating lions to Kuno may create tensions between the pride and the cheetahs imported from Namibia and South Africa, and sought time to re-examine the issue. But if lions were to be relocated to Kuno, it would also mean more funds –central and international – for conservation.

As of the 2023 tiger census, India is estimated to have 3,682 tigers. About 30% of them are considered to be living outside tiger reserves.

Homes for the big cat

As of the 2023 tiger census, India is estimated to have 3,682 tigers. About 30% of them are considered to be living outside tiger reserves



What's on the agenda of the Raisina Dialogue?

Who are the newsmakers attending the 10th edition this year? Will Ukraine war, tariffs threatened by U.S. President Donald Trump, relations with China dominate proceedings? Why are leaders from West Asia and South East Asia not well represented? What about Pakistan?

Suhasini Haidar

The story so far:

A month after this year's explosive Munich Security Conference, where U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance put Europe on notice, Delhi is set to host the annual Raisina Dialogue from March 17-19, where U.S. President Donald Trump's seismic foreign policy shifts are expected to be the big conversation points again.

What are the issues expected to make the headlines?

The 10th edition of the annual Raisina Dialogue will be inaugurated on Monday by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, where the chief guest, New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon will deliver the keynote address, with the theme "*Kalachakra*" (wheel of time). However, a big contingent from the U.S. is expected to take the centre stage, given the twists and turns in American policy under Mr. Trump – from the Ukraine war, the talks with Russia, the new tariff regime that threatens ties between the U.S. and countries around the world, including India, the U.S.' fraying relations with its NATO and European allies, uncertainty around the U.S.'s Indo-Pacific policy, and new statements on China and Taiwan.

Amidst the turmoil, U.S. Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard is leading a team to Delhi for an intelligence chiefs' conference at the weekend hosted by National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, and will speak at the Raisina Dialogue. Apart from Ms. Gabbard, the Special Assistant to U.S. President Trump and National Security Council official, Ricky Gill, and Senior Counsellor to Mr. Trump, James Carafano, who was a key figure behind the Republican campaign document "Project 2025", are also listed as speakers and are expected to defend the U.S.' moves.

> Europe is well represented; no speakers listed from Bangladesh

A Quad panel with senior Navy leadership from the four countries, India, Australia, Japan and the U.S., is expected as India gears up to host the Quad leader summit this year, which is expected to see some announcements on expanding maritime cooperation.

What can be expected in Ukraine?

The Raisina Dialogue follows weeks of dramatic developments in the Russia-Ukraine war, including the showdown between Mr. Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Washington, followed by rounds of U.S.-Russia talks and then U.S.-Ukraine talks about a ceasefire, which will no doubt be a major point of discussion at the dialogue, and on its sidelines. Eleven of the 20 Foreign and other Ministers arriving for the dialogue are from Europe, including Ukraine Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha.

In 2024, the numbers were even more skewed, with chief guest Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis and 15 of 21 Foreign Ministers present from Europe, making a concerted pitch for India to shift its position on Ukraine. This year, all eyes will be on discussions and debate that pit European leaders against those from the U.S., particularly Ms. Gabbard, who has in the past batted for better U.S.-Russia ties. However, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, who used to be a regular speaker, will not attend. At the Raisina Dialogue in 2023, Mr. Lavrov faced a barrage of questions over the war in Ukraine during a session, that got extremely heated over the question of Russia joining talks for a ceasefire.

Also on the list is International Atomic Energy Agency chief Rafael Grossi, who will be an important speaker on the war in Ukraine, and the possibility of reviving nuclear talks with Iran.

Who else is coming?

The speakers' list at the Raisina Dialogue serves as a good barometer of India's relations with various countries, and which countries participate are often as important as those who miss the event. According to the list released by the Ministry of External Affairs, the Foreign Ministers of Bhutan, D. N. Dhungyel; Nepal, Arzu Rana Deuba; and the Maldives, Abdulla Khaleel, will attend the meet. Mauritius' Foreign Minister, Dhananjay Ramful, will also be present.

Given tense ties with India's western neighbour, Raisina Dialogue does not invite Pakistani delegates. However, it is notable that no speakers from Bangladesh or representatives of the Yunus government are listed this year. The programme lists a speaker from China's Fudan University, which reflects the thaw in bilateral ties after the meeting between Mr. Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping last October.

Another country with which India may see a thaw this year is Canada, given the change in leadership. The Director of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, Daniel Rogers, who is in Delhi, could also attend the Dialogue. In addition, former Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper and former Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott, both regular attendees, will be present.

Despite the Indian government's attempts at improving ties with West Asia (GCC) and South East Asia (ASEAN), both regions aren't well represented again, a trend visible for the last few years. The only exceptions are the Philippines' Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Enrique Manalo, and Thailand's Foreign Minister, Maris Sangiampongsa. Foreign Ministers from Ghana, Cuba, Peru, Antigua and Barbuda are the others attending from the Global South.

How did the Raisina Dialogue start?

Launched in 2016 by the Ministry of External Affairs as a "flagship Indian international dialogue", the Raisina Dialogue aims to bring together leaders and thinkers from around the world. Envisioned by the government as a potential rival to the Munich Security Conference and Singapore's Shangri-La Dialogue, the Indian version is named after the Raisina Hills, where Rashtrapati Bhavan, key Ministries and Parliament are located in the capital.

Absent voice: Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, who used to be a regular speaker, will not attend this year's Raisina Dialogue. ANI

PROFILES

The rebels who shook Pakistan

Baloch Liberation Army

The militant group, which has overshadowed the traditional nationalist movements of Pakistan's restive province, mobilised thousands of fighters and stepped up operations in recent months, says 'Free Balochistan is our only demand'

Kallol Bhattacherjee

October 18, 2018 came bearing bad news for the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA). On that day, across the Afghan-Pakistan border, Kandahar's police chief Gen. Abdul Raziq Achakzai was assassinated by the Taliban, who were still three years away from capturing Kabul. Raziq was known for his brutal tactics in dealing with the Taliban but his assassination in the house of the Kandahar Governor Zalmay Wesa, who was also critically wounded, left lingering questions about the fate of the BLA because among many things, Raziq also handled the movement of Baloch militants within the Af-Pak. territory.

The BLA suffered another setback when its top commander Aslam Baloch was killed in a blast three months later, in December 2018. Weeks earlier, the BLA had attacked the Chinese consulate in Karachi where two policemen and four cadre were killed. After the targeted assassinations of Raziq and Aslam, there were signs that the BLA's logistical network would be disturbed. The next big setback was the U.S. designation of the BLA as a terrorist outfit, on July 2, 2019.

However, the BLA carried out some more daring attacks, including the May 2019 attack on the Pearl Continental Hotel in Gwadar, the newest port of Pakistan which is also vital for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. It was the last major attack by the group which came under pressure after the Taliban took over Kabul on August 15, 2021. But the calm did not last long.

On March 11, 2025, the BLA carried out its biggest attack in its nearly 25 years of operation against the Pakistani state when its militants assaulted the Quetta-Peshawar Jaffar Express.

The latest attack, executed through a series of actions spread across a vast area interspersed with mountain tunnels, has indicated that the BLA has bounced back from the setbacks of 2018-21, and highlighted the souring state of relationship between Pakistan and the Taliban.

Months before the Jaffar Express attack, the BLA had been expanding

A special train to transport the people rescued from a passenger train attacked by the BLA arrives in Much, Balochistan, on Wednesday. AP

the footprint of its firepower. A survey of its claims of attacks shows that the Jaffar Express attack came after nearly two years of escalation during which it carried out an exhaustive series of operations across Balochistan. The BLA claimed to have carried out attacks almost every week in 2024.

Support base

On October 7, 2024, the BLA claimed responsibility for a blast that targeted Karachi's airport road, killing two Chinese nationals and injuring 10 Pakistani nationals. The blast revived fears about the BLA. The group rose out of the Baloch nationalist movement, which was traditionally dominated by the Baloch nawabs or sardars belonging to the Bizenjos, Bugtis and other clans.

The BLA does not possess a formal structure like other armed nationalist groups in South Asia and West Asia. The total strength of the group is believed to be around 6,000 cadre, though the number of sympathisers to the Baloch cause is much higher. The new generation of young social media savvy Baloch university graduates is the main support base of the group, and the Majeed Brigade, the wing of the BLA that carried out the attack on the train, has been consistently at the forefront of violent operations.

The Baloch nationalist movement sprang from the dispute of sovereignty in the princely states in the region that were to join Pakistan. However, the armed struggle under the 21st century BLA is markedly different from the tradition of armed militants who were earlier indirectly supported by the Marri, Bugti, Mengal and other dominant clans or tribes. A dispute over sovereignty at the end of the British colonial rule, coupled with negation of the federal spirit in military-dominated Pakistan, has been the driving force for the Baloch national movement.

A major element of the Baloch nationalist struggle, which was parallel to the linguistic nationalism of Bengali-speaking East Pakistan, was that it unfolded during the Cold War era. The Baloch movement was influenced by the Soviet Union and radical Marxist ideology in the past, and Moscow trained many radical Baloch figures during the period of 1950s to 1970s. Long before the BLA, in 1964, the Baloch Liberation Front (BLF) was launched by Jumma Khan but that outfit is now completely overshadowed by the BLA.

The BLA rebels claim that Pakistan has been exploiting the rich resources of the province without giving due share to the indigenous people and the tribes. In recent years, the BLA has emerged as a movement with a wide network in both urban and rural areas of Balochistan that has carved a space for itself away from the traditional hold of the sardars or tribal chieftains. BLA rebels claim that they are aiming for both freedom from Pakistan and internal reform of Baloch society.

After the death of Aslam Baloch, the BLA suffered from lack of coordination and internal controversies.

For example, the June 29, 2020 attack by the BLA on the Karachi Stock Exchange created an internal problem for the organisation, after Majeed Brigade claimed that it was carried out by Tasleem Baloch, Shehzad Baloch, Salman Hammal and Siraj Kungur. The claim immediately triggered a protest from the BLA spokesperson Azad Baloch, who claimed that the four were already expelled from the group. His statement indicated that the attack was part of an Iranian effort to malign the group because it had not compromised with Iran. Baloch nationalist sentiment is prevalent both in Balochistan of Pakistan as well as Sistan-Balochistan, the easternmost province of Iran.

Voice of the rebels

Traditional Baloch sardars have been cautious and refused to acknowledge any link with the BLA, but the London-based pro-independence leader Hyrbair Marri is generally considered to be an overground voice of the group.

Following the Jaffar Express attack, in which, according to the Pakistani military, 31 people, including five civilian passengers, were killed, Mr. Marri said: "We are Baloch and we reject Pakistan's flag. Remove it. We have our own. Free Balochistan is our only demand."

By drawing in India, Pakistan has highlighted an old link between Baloch nationalist leaders and India. Non-violent Baloch nationalist leaders and human rights activists like Mama Qadeer and Naela Qadri visited India several times in the past. In the last decade, there were instances when BLA commanders visited India ostensibly to seek medical treatment.

It is said, the slain Aslam Baloch had visited India under an assumed identity provided by the intelligence agency of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (before the 2021 Taliban takeover). After the train attack, Pakistan pointed fingers at India. However, India "strongly rejected the baseless allegations", and asked Pakistan "to look inwards".

With the BLA gaining strength in Balochistan and the Pakistani Taliban stepping up attacks in the tribal region, Islamabad-Rawalpindi is once again facing multi-pronged security challenges, at a time when the country's economy is struggling to stabilise itself amid unresolved political tensions between the military backed government and the jailed former Prime Minister, Imran Khan.

THE GIST

- The Baloch nationalist movement sprang from the dispute of sovereignty in the princely states in the region that were to join Pakistan
- Long before the BLA, in 1964, the Baloch Liberation Front (BLF) was launched by Jumma Khan but that outfit is now completely overshadowed by the BLA
- The BLA rebels claim that Pakistan has been exploiting the rich resources of the province without due share to the indigenous people and the tribes

Market watchdog

Tuhin Kanta Pandey

The new SEBI chief says his focus will be on optimum regulation, not on maximum regulation, as he seeks to ensure fair practices at India's security's markets

Lalatendu Mishra

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

Tuhin Kanta Pandey, the former Union Finance Secretary, took charge as the Chairman of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on March 1, Saturday. The next day, the news broke that a Mumbai Special Court Judge directed the city's Anti-Corruption Bureau to file FIRs on former SEBI chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and three of the regulator's four Wholetime Members for their alleged complicity in listing of a now delisted company in 1994.

Without wasting any time, Mr. Pandey, 59, moved into action.

In a statement, SEBI said that even though these officials were not holding their respective positions at the relevant point of time, the court allowed the application [to register the FIR and a court monitored investigation] without issuing any notice or granting any opportunity to SEBI to place the facts on record. "The applicant [a media reporter who could get a court order on Saturday, the day after Ms. Buch exited office and the day Mr. Pandey took over] is known to be a frivolous and habitual litigant, with previous applications being dismissed by the Court, with imposition of costs in some cases," it said.

SEBI said it would initiate appropriate legal steps to challenge the order.

On the day he took over, at the SEBI headquarters in Mumbai, Mr. Pandey faced a lot of questions from journalists, particularly about the style of functioning of his predecessor. In his response, he firmly put the organisation's integrity at the centre, without resorting to any blame game.

Mr. Pandey, a 1987 IAS officer of the Odisha cadre, is the 11th Chairman of SEBI. All of SEBI's past heads, except G.N. Bajpai and Ms. Buch, were IAS officers. With Mr. Pandey at the helm, SEBI has returned into the fold of the "steel frame of India", as the Indian Administrative Service is often referred to.

In the past three months the Centre has selected two Finance Ministry secretaries as regulators – Sanjay Malhotra, who was appointed as the RBI Governor in December last year, and now Mr. Pandey.

During his over three decades career as a bureaucrat, Mr. Pandey has held noteworthy positions in the Union Government and the State Government of Odisha, besides serving a stint in the Regional Office of the UN Industrial Development Organisation.

Rich experience

Before joining SEBI, Mr. Pandey served as the Union Finance Secretary, Revenue Secretary and Secretary, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management, Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises and Secretary, and Department of Personnel & Training. He was also with the Planning Commission (Now Niti Aayog), the Cabinet Secretariat and the Ministry of Commerce in the past.

After Mr. Malhotra's posting at the RBI, Mr. Pandey had played a key role in the preparation of the last Union Budget.

As the disinvestment secretary for five years, he has handled the divestment of the government's stake in many Public Sector Enterprises, including Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd and several companies from the Indian Railways stable. He had also handled the strategic sale of Air India to the Tata Group in 2021-22,

His former colleagues describe him as someone who is thorough and methodical. He has a very good sense for numbers and most importantly as a person, he is uncompromising and unyielding, they say.

Having a Masters degree in Economics from Panjab University, Chandigarh and an MBA from the University of Birmingham (U.K.), Mr. Pandey has a tough task ahead – he has to tame a rampaging bull as markets have been volatile in recent weeks due to 'Trump tantrums', and fight manipulations in the derivatives market.

Tough times call for tough measures. Mr. Pandey is no stranger to such measures. "Capital market is a dynamic space so change is imminent but we will certainly not be looking for maximum regulation but for optimum regulation," Mr. Pandey said on March 7, in his first public speech since assuming the chairmanship of the regulator.

Enter India

Starlink

Elon Musk's satellite Internet service Starlink is entering India again, this time flanked by Airtel and Jio; however, official authorisations are still pending and the roadmap remains unclear

Sahana Venugopal

PHOTO: AFP

On March 6, an account on the social media platform X claimed that Reliance Jio, Airtel, and VI wanted "fair competition" as the Indian government mulled over the possibility of granting Starlink a license. In response to the post, the U.S. President's advisor and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk commented, "Fair competition would be much appreciated." Netizens enjoyed the interaction, with many joking about Reliance Industries potentially finding its 'fair market' match in Tesla CEO Musk.

Days later, however, Airtel announced that it had inked a deal to bring Starlink to India. Hot on its heels was Jio Platforms with the same announcement.

India's two major telecom companies announced their Starlink partnerships after a White House meeting last month between U.S. President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Prime Minister shared that he had met Mr. Musk and discussed a range of subjects with him, including space, mobility, technology, and innovation.

Weeks later, Airtel and Jio hailed their partnerships with Starlink and its potential for India's consumers.

"This is the first agreement to be signed in India, which is subject to SpaceX receiving its own authorizations to sell Starlink in India," noted Airtel in a statement on March 11. The two would also explore offering Starlink products in Airtel's retail stores and Starlink service via Airtel to business customers.

A day later, Jio Platforms released its own statement, with similar language. It hailed the partnership between the "world's largest mobile operator in terms of data traffic" and Starlink, but noted that the agreement was subject to Starlink obtaining authorisation.

Airtel further acknowledged its existing alliance with Eutelsat OneWeb, which also provides satellite connectivity. Eutelsat OneWeb noted on its website that it had "more than 630 satellites along 12 carefully synchronised orbital planes 1,200 km above, in low Earth orbit (LEO)."

Jio, during the India Mobile Congress in 2023, introduced its own JioSpaceFiber satellite Internet service. In a press release, Jio shared that it was "partnering with SES to access the world's latest in medium earth orbit satellite technology." SES has 70 satellites operating in two different orbits and broadcasts to over 1 billion TV viewers worldwide.

Meanwhile, Starlink noted on its website that it is a constellation of "thousands of satellites" that orbit Earth at about 550 km.

Keep in mind, however, that the winner is not necessarily the company with the largest number of satellites. The satellite's assigned location – in low, medium, or high Earth orbit – greatly affects its build, its orbital speed, the area it can cover by itself, and the kind of service it provides to users. For example, a Starlink satellite system in low Earth orbit that enables users to watch movies while camping will drastically differ from a satellite or a satellite system that enables one country's military to monitor an enemy region.

As of March 15, the Starlink availability map still marked service in India as "pending regulatory approval". India's only neighbour that currently enjoys official access to Starlink is Bhutan. Meanwhile, some Bangladeshi companies have entered into agreements with Starlink, and service-related discussions are taking place, reported local news outlets.

Past controversies

Starlink has been trying for years to enter the Indian market, but faced hurdles. In early 2022, Starlink emailed customers to promise refunds for pre-orders after the government said it was not licensed to operate in the country, reported TechCrunch.

In December 2024, satellite Internet equipment with Starlink branding was seized from Manipur's Imphal East and linked to militant activity. Mr. Musk said this was false and that satellite beams were turned off over India.

While the Indian government needs to formally bless Starlink's latest attempt to land in the country, the high-profile agreements signed with Airtel and Jio after Mr. Modi's U.S. visit signal a softening stance in Delhi.

CAIRO

'Will release U.S.-Israeli hostage only if truce deal is implemented'

AP

Hamas said it will only release a U.S.-Israeli and the bodies of four other hostages if Israel implements their ceasefire agreement. A senior Hamas official said the long-delayed talks over the ceasefire's second phase would need to begin the day of the release and last no longer than 50 days. AP

WASHINGTON

U.S. expels South African envoy, saying he 'hates' President Trump

AP

The U.S. is expelling South Africa's ambassador to Washington, Ebrahim Rasool, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on Friday, accusing the envoy of hating the country and President Donald Trump. "We have nothing to discuss with him and so he is considered PERSONA NON GRATA," Mr. Rubio said. AFP

DHAKA

Guterres, Yunus discuss Dhaka's domestic issues, Rohingya crisis

AFP

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has discussed with Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus the country's domestic issues and the Rohingya situation and expressed solidarity with Dhaka's reform and transition process. Mr. Guterres is in Bangladesh on a "Ramzan Solidarity" visit from March 13-16. PTI

BANGKOK

Air strike in Myanmar kills nearly 30 people, says opposition group

AP

An air strike by Myanmar's military on a village under the control of the pro-democracy resistance group MDY-PDF has killed at least 27 civilians and injured 30 others, an opposition group said. The attack occurred Friday at 3 p.m. in Let Pan Hla village in Singu township, about 65 km north of Mandalay, the country's second-largest city. AP

Zelenskyy presses allies for security guarantees, foreign troops in Ukraine

Kyiv and Kremlin trade drone strikes with Ukraine downing 130 Iranian-made drones and Russia neutralising 126; Moscow claims to have retaken two villages in Kursk region; U.K. PM holds virtual call with European leaders, including Zelenskyy

Reuters

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Saturday he had urged Kyiv's Western allies to give "a clear position" on security guarantees including about a potential foreign troop contingent on Ukrainian soil with a U.S. backstop.

His comments came after British Prime Minister Keir Starmer held a virtual call with other European leaders and allies, including Mr. Zelenskyy, where Mr. Starmer said a "coalition of the willing" would help secure Ukraine "on the land, at sea and in the sky" in the event of a peace deal with Russia.

Slow and steady: A Russian soldier walks along destroyed buildings in Sudzha in Kursk region. AFP

"We need to continue working on the contingents that will form the foundation of Europe's future Armed Forces," Mr. Zelenskyy said in a post on X.

"Peace will be more reliable with European contingents on the ground and the American side as a backstop."

Mr. Starmer has also called for a U.S. security backstop to help secure a lasting peace between Russia and Ukraine in the three-year-old war.

Mr. Zelenskyy urged European leaders to dismiss Mr. Putin's opposition to European peacekeepers in Ukraine and blamed the Russian leader for stalling peace efforts.

"A ceasefire could have already happened, but Russia is doing everything to prevent it," he said.

Meanwhile, Ukraine and Russia attacked each other with a barrage of drones on Saturday, with Moscow regaining more of its territory in the Kursk region.

Ukraine said it had downed 130 Iranian-made drones launched by Russia across the country, while Moscow said it shot down 126 drones over its southern and border regions.

The Russian Defence Ministry said troops took control over the villages of Zaoleshenka and Rubanshchina – north and west of the town of Sudzha, the main town that Moscow reclaimed this week.

Sri Lankan Parliament to debate report on unlawful detention, torture in 1980s

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Delayed justice: The Dissanayake government will seek the Attorney-General's opinion on the report tabled on Friday. AFP

Sri Lanka's Parliament will debate a nearly three-decade-old report probing allegations of unlawful detention, torture, and extrajudicial killings by the state between 1988 and 1990, the ruling National People's Power [NPP] government has said.

Leader of the House Bimal Rathnayake on Friday tabled the report in Parliament and said the government would seek the Attorney-General's opinion on it. The report came into focus recently, following *Al Jazeera*'s interview with former President Ranil Wickremesinghe, in which he was asked about torture allegations during the period. Mr. Wickremesinghe – who was Minister of Industries in President Ranasinghe Premadasa's government at the time and was accused of enabling the "torture camp" – denied any wrongdoing.

The ambit of the report covers the period of the second armed insurrection in the late 1980s of the leftist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), which is the chief constituent of the ruling NPP coalition. The 'Batalanda commission report', released in 1998 by a panel appointed by former President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, investigated allegations of torture by state actors, targeting members of or those allegedly linked to the JVP.

The JVP's youth had taken up arms [for the second time] against the state, its representatives, government supporters, and dissidents from the Left. According to multiple accounts of the period, the state responded brutally.

The 'Batalanda commission report' pertains to a government-backed counter-subversive unit, or the 'Batalanda detention centre', run in Colombo's neighbouring Gampaha district, as part of the state's operation to put down the insurgency. The report, which also details the violence committed by the JVP, notes, "The terrorism of the JVP was met with State Terrorism".

Impediment to justice

The renewed attention to the 1998 report has generated interest within Sri Lanka's human rights community that has repeatedly cited impunity for state actors as the main impediment to justice, with activists reminding successive governments of the calls for justice from the Tamil community that witnessed gross human rights violations during the civil war.

Kishali Pinto-Jayawardena, constitutional lawyer and author of *Commissions of Inquiry; Still Seeking Justice in Sri Lanka,* said the significance [of tabling or debating the report] lies not in the "political sound and fury", but in the possible legal action on its findings.

"Will that debate be used for political capital by the government? That will only continue an entrenched pattern of politicised use of Commissions of Inquiry reports. On the other hand, if we talk of 'JVP terrorism' and 'state terrorism', this debate should include other Commissions of Inquiry reports that comprehensively dealt with state and counter-state terror from the north to the south during the 1980s", she said.

According to Nirmal Ranjith Dewasiri, Professor of History at the University of Colombo, the government would not have tabled the report in Parliament but for the pressure following Mr. Wickremesinghe's recent media interview. All the same, he sees value in creating a public discourse around the report. "It would be ideal to set up a credible Truth Commission to investigate the role of the State in the past, not just in the south but also in the north."

Journalists among nine killed in Israeli strikes in Gaza

Agence France-Presse
GAZA CITY

Nine persons including journalists were killed in Israeli strikes in the territory's northern town on Beit Lahia on Saturday, an attack Hamas denounced as a "blatant violation" of the fragile ceasefire.

The director of Hamas-affiliated media in Gaza, Ismail Thawabteh, said that local photo journalists were killed while "using a drone to capture images of a Ramzan dining table". He said they were "directly targeted, despite their work being clear".

SpaceX launches new crew to replace NASA's stranded astronauts at the ISS

Associated Press

The replacements for NASA's two stuck astronauts launched to the International Space Station on Friday night, paving the way for the pair's return after nine long months.

Butch Wilmore and Sunita Williams need SpaceX to get this relief team to the space station before they can check out. Arrival is set for late Saturday night.

NASA wants overlap between the two crews so Mr. Wilmore and Ms. Williams can fill in the newcomers on happenings aboard the orbiting lab. That would put them on course for an undocking next week and a splashdown off the Florida coast, weather permitting.

NASA wants overlap between the two crews so that the newcomers can be filled on happenings aboard the orbiting lab. REUTERS

The duo will be escorted back by astronauts who flew up on a rescue mission on SpaceX last September alongside two empty seats reserved for Mr. Wilmore and Ms. Williams on the return leg.

Reaching orbit from NASA's Kennedy Space Center, the newest crew includes NASA's Anne McClain and Nichole Ayers, both military pilots; and Japan's Takuya Onishi and Russia's Kirill Peskov, both former airline pilots. They will spend the next six months at the space station, considered the normal stint, after springing Wilmore and Williams free.

As test pilots for Boeing's new Starliner capsule, Mr. Wilmore and Ms. Williams expected to be gone just a week or so when they launched from Cape Canaveral on June 5. A series of helium leaks and thruster failures marred their trip, setting off months of investigation by NASA and Boeing on how best to proceed.

Sport

Norris storms to pole as McLaren locks front row; Verstappen to start third

AUSTRALIAN GP

Associated Press
MELBOURNE

McLaren booked the front row for Sunday's Australian Grand Prix, having dominated its rivals, including Red Bull, Mercedes, and Ferrari – whose drivers, Charles Leclerc and Lewis Hamilton, will start from seventh and eighth on the grid.

Lando Norris had a searing final qualifying lap and secured pole position, his first at Albert Park and 10th overall, in front of teammate Oscar Piastri and a record Saturday crowd of 136,347.

"Not a bad way to start the year, thanks everyone," said Norris on the team radio.

Top three: Norris, centre, with teammate Piastri and Verstappen. AP

Piastri, having maximised his lap, enabled McLaren to lock out the front row. The Australian hasn't given up on becoming the first Australian to win his home F1 Grand Prix.

"It would be really special to be able to achieve that," Piastri said.

Red Bull's Max Verstappen, who qualified third, said: "I don't expect miracles. I'll just do my best and see what happens."

The grid:
Front row: Lando Norris (McLaren) and Oscar Piastri (McLaren); **Second row:** Max Verstappen (Red Bull) and George Russell (Mercedes); **Third row:** Yuki Tsunoda (Racing Bulls) and Alexander Albon (Williams); **Fourth row:** Charles Leclerc (Ferrari) and Lewis Hamilton (Ferrari); **Fifth row:** Pierre Gasly (Alpine) and Carlos Sainz Jr. (Williams).
Sixth row: Isack Hadjar (Racing Bulls) and Fernando Alonso (Aston Martin); **Seventh row:** Lance Stroll (Aston Martin) and Jack Doohan (Alpine); **Eighth row:** Gabriel Bortoleto (Sauber) and Andrea Kimi Antonelli (Mercedes); **Ninth row:** Nico Hulkenberg (Sauber) and Liam Lawson (Red Bull); **10th row:** Esteban Ocon (Haas) and Oliver Bearman (Haas).
Race starts at 9.30 a.m. IST.

Brighton holds Manchester City; Bayern also drops points against Union Berlin

EURO LEAGUES

Agencies
MANCHESTER

Manchester City could only muster a 2-2 Premier League draw with Brighton on Saturday, dropping points in a blow to its hopes of playing European football next season.

Erling Haaland and Omar Marmoush struck for Pep Guardiola's men, but Brighton equalised with a second-half own goal by City defender Abdukodir Khusanov after Pervis Estupinan had scored the visitors' first.

The draw kept champion City provisionally fifth in the Premier League table on 48 points after 29 games. Brighton is a point behind in seventh.

Bending it goalwards: Estupinan's sublime freekick results in Brighton's opening goal. GETTY IMAGES

Bayern Munich was held to a 1-1 draw at Union Berlin on Saturday, giving defending champion Bayer Leverkusen an outside chance of dragging itself back into the Bundesliga title race.

Bayern could be just six points ahead if Leverkusen wins at Stuttgart on Sunday.

The results: Premier League: Everton 1 (O'Brien 90+1) drew with West Ham 1 (Soucek 67); Ipswich Town 2 (Cajuste 82, Hirst 90+3) lost to Nottingham Forest 4 (Milenkovic 35, Elanga 37, 41, Jota Silva 87); Manchester City 2 (Haaland 11-pen, Marmoush 39) drew with Brighton 2 (Estupinan 21, Khusanov 48-og); Southampton 1 (Onuachu 75) lost to Wolves 2 (Strand Larsen 19, 47).
Bundesliga: Werder Bremen 2 (Schmid 38, Silva 45+1-pen) drew with Borussia M'Gladbach 4 (Plea 7-pen, 28, 47, Kleindienst 81); Augsburg 1 (Tietz 53) bt VfL Wolfsburg 0; Mainz 05 2 (Burkardt 34, Schjølberg Hanche-Olsen 74) drew with SC Freiburg 2 (Gregoritsch 58, Kubler 79); Union Berlin 1 (Hollerbach 83) drew with Bayern Munich 1 (Sane 75).

SAME PATTERN

The trend of opting to bowl continues in the final also

SPORTZPICS/WPL

In the 21 matches before Saturday's Women's Premier League summit clash, the team that won the toss chose to bowl first on every occasion. That didn't change in the title match also as Delhi Capitals skipper Meg Lanning opted to chase against Mumbai Indians.

ON A ROLL

Mumbai Indians' Sciver-Brunt etches her name in record books

EMMANUAL YOGINI

Mumbai Indians' Natalie Sciver-Brunt became the first batter to score 500 runs in a single edition of the Women's Premier League during the 2025 final against Delhi Capitals. Her 28-ball 30 also took her overall WPL haul over the 1000-run mark, making her the first person to do so in the league's history.

BITTERSWEET

Kapp produces an all-round show but Capitals wilt under pressure

EMMANUAL YOGINI

Delhi Capitals' Marizanne Kapp shone with bat and ball but finished on the losing side. She bowled a remarkable spell (4-0-11-2), dismissing the Mumbai Indians openers and giving Capitals a strong start. The South African hit a 26-ball 40 to keep her side in the hunt before falling to Nat Sciver-Brunt as Mumbai had the last laugh.

THE CATALYSTS

Kohli heaps praise on the Women in Blue and WPL

FILE PHOTO: VIJAY SONEJI

Virat Kohli was all praise for India's women's cricketers and the WPL. "What the India women's cricket team has done over the last few years... they have been the catalysts in bringing attention on to themselves. The power-hitting, the skill level, everything. It is a completely different women's game and it's going to keep growing".

Mumbai Indians regains title, Delhi falters yet again

Harmanpreet and Sciver-Brunt do the star turn for the home team, the latter delivering a crucial spell too; Kapp wages a lone battle for Capitals who suffer a third successive loss in a final

WPL

Vivek Krishnan
MUMBAI

Two years after winning the inaugural edition of the Women's Premier League, Mumbai Indians added another title to its cabinet on Saturday with a heart-stopping eight-run win at the Brabourne Stadium.

Bitter pill

For Delhi Capitals, losing the final for a third straight year will be a bitter pill to swallow.

At the halfway stage, it wasn't looking like a night of celebration for MI. That it had even managed to get to 149 for seven at a usually high-scoring venue was primarily due to Harmanpreet Kaur's sublime 44-ball 66.

But the fighting total turned out to be enough as MI's bowlers restricted DC to 141 for nine.

Fighting knock

Marizanne Kapp, who entered with DC on 44 for four, kept her side in contention with a contribution of 40 in the chase.

Once she was caught at long-off in the 18th over off Nat Sciver-Brunt with the visitor needing another 27 runs off 14 balls, there was no further twist in the tale.

Walking the talk

On the eve of the WPL final, Harmanpreet had said that the team's long batting line-up allowed her to play freely from the outset this season. But to walk the talk when everything is on the line is easier said than done.

The 35-year-old MI skipper did the hard bit effortlessly.

Having opted to bowl, DC captain Meg Lanning couldn't have hoped for a more impressive start from the new-ball pair of Kapp and Shikha Pandey.

Bringing all their experience into play, they consistently got the ball to land on a good length and let it do its bit in the air on a typically humid evening. Kapp struck twice in her four-over spell.

After eight overs, MI was 28 for two. But the 2023 champion wouldn't have acquired the heft it has if not for its ability to counterpunch.

So, Harmanpreet decided to play just as she has all season while being aided by Sciver-Brunt in an 89-run partnership.

In the chase, Capitals were pegged back by the dismissals of Lanning and Shafali Verma inside the first three overs.

Openers go early

Lanning's stumps were dislodged by Sciver-Brunt's off-cutter. Shabnim Ismail trapped Shafali plumb in front.

The spin duo of Amelia Kerr and Saika Ishaque came into play in the middle overs.

Kerr had Jonassen top-edging a pull to the wicket-keeper, and then caught Jemimah Rodrigues' leading edge off her own bowling.

Ishaque managed to entice Annabel Sutherland and have her stumped.

It left the remaining Capitals batters with too much to do.

Fiery display: A gutsy and determined Mumbai Indians rose to the occasion when it mattered most, getting the better of Delhi Capitals in a summit clash for the second time. EMMANUAL YOGINI

SCOREBOARD

MUMBAI INDIANS
Yastika Bhatia c Jemimah b Kapp 8 *(14b, 1x4)*, Hayley Matthews b Kapp 3 *(10b)*, Nat Sciver-Brunt c Minnu b Charani 30 *(28b, 4x4)*, Harmanpreet Kaur c Kapp b Sutherland 66 *(44b, 9x4, 2x6)*, Amelia Kerr c Shafali b Jonassen 2 *(3b)*, Sajeevan Sajana lbw b Jonassen 0 *(2b)*, G. Kamalini st. Bryce b Charani 10 *(7b, 1x6)*, Amanjot Kaur (not out) 14 *(7b, 2x4)*, Sanskriti Gupta (not out) 8 *(5b, 1x4)*; Extras (b-1, w-7): 8; Total (for seven wkts. in 20 overs): 149.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-5 (Matthews, 2.6 overs), 2-14 (Yastika, 4.3), 3-103 (Sciver-Brunt, 14.5), 4-112 (Kerr, 15.4), 5-112 (Sajana, 15.6), 6-118 (Harmanpreet, 17.1), 7-132 (Kamalini, 18.4).

CAPITALS BOWLING
Kapp 4-0-11-2, Shikha 4-0-29-0, Sutherland 4-0-29-1, Jonassen 3-0-26-2, Charani 4-0-43-2, Minnu 1-0-10-0.

DELHI CAPITALS
Meg Lanning b Sciver-Brunt 13 *(9b, 2x4)*, Shafali Verma lbw b Ismail 4 *(9b)*, Jess Jonassen c Yastika b Kerr 13 *(15b, 2x4)*, Jemimah Rodrigues c & b Kerr 30 *(21b, 4x4)*, Annabel Sutherland st. Yastika b Saika 2 *(5b)*, Marizanne Kapp c Matthews b Sciver-Brunt 40 *(26b, 5x4, 2x6)*, Sarah Bryce run out 5 *(5b)*, Niki Prasad (not out) 25 *(23b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Shikha Pandey b Sciver-Brunt 0 *(1b)*, Minnu Mani c Sajana b Matthews 4 *(2b, 1x4)*, Shree Charani (not out) 3 *(4b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-1): 2; Total (for nine wkts. in 20 overs): 141.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-15 (Lanning, 1.6), 2-17 (Shafali, 2.6), 3-37 (Jonassen, 6.2), 4-44 (Sutherland, 7.6), 5-66 (Jemimah, 10.4), 6-83 (Bryce, 12.5), 7-123 (Kapp, 17.4), 8-123 (Shikha, 17.5), 9-128 (Minnu, 18.2).

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING
Ismail 4-0-15-1, Sciver-Brunt 4-0-30-3, Matthews 4-0-37-1, Kerr 4-0-25-2, Saika 4-0-33-1.

Toss: Capitals.
PoM: Harmanpreet.
PoS: Sciver-Brunt.
Mumbai Indians won by eight runs to clinch its second WPL crown.

Architects: Sciver-Brunt struck vital blows after Harmanpreet came up with a counter-attacking knock to set up a competitive total. EMMANUAL YOGINI

IPL-18 COUNTDOWN

Delhi Capitals

THE DUGOUT

Axar Patel (Capt.), K.L. Rahul, Faf du Plessis, Jake Fraser-McGurk, Abishek Porel, Tristan Stubbs, Karun Nair, Sameer Rizvi, Ashutosh Sharma, Mitchell Starc, Dushmantha Chameera, Kuldeep Yadav, T. Natarajan, Mukesh Kumar, Mohit Sharma, Vipraj Nigam, Tripurana Vijay, Donovan Ferreira, Ajay Mandal, Madhav Tiwari, Manvanth Kumar.

THE DRIVING FORCE

MITCHELL STARC: Having skipped the Champions Trophy to look after his body following the exertions of the Australian summer, he should be back at full throttle for Capitals' IPL campaign. At his best, the 35-year-old left-arm pacer is among the most lethal in the world.

OVERALL NUMBERS

M	W	L	NR
252	115	135	2

BY OPPONENT

	M	W	L	NR
MI	35	16	19	0
PBKS	33	16	17	0
KKR	33	15	18	0
RCB	31	11	19	1
CSK	30	11	19	0
RR	29	14	15	0
SRH	24	11	13	0
GT	5	3	2	0
LSG	5	2	3	0

Capitals' remaining matches were against Deccan Chargers (11), PWI (6), GL (4), RPS (4) and KTK (2)

DC's 2025 LEAGUE CAMPAIGN

March 24	vs LSG	Visakhapatnam	7.30 p.m.
March 30	vs SRH	Visakhapatnam	3.30 p.m.
April 5	vs CSK	Chennai	3.30 p.m.
April 10	vs RCB	Bengaluru	7.30 p.m.
April 13	vs MI	Delhi	7.30 p.m.
April 16	vs RR	Delhi	7.30 p.m.
April 19	vs GT	Ahmedabad	3.30 p.m.
April 22	vs LSG	Lucknow	7.30 p.m.
April 27	vs RCB	Delhi	7.30 p.m.
April 29	vs KKR	Delhi	7.30 p.m.
May 5	vs SRH	Hyderabad	7.30 p.m.
May 8	vs PBKS	Dharamshala	7.30 p.m.
May 11	vs GT	Delhi	7.30 p.m.
May 15	vs MI	Mumbai	7.30 p.m.

K.L. Rahul has scored 500-plus runs in six of the last seven IPL seasons. He will hope to not just score a big volume of runs again, but also maintain an excellent strike rate.

Onus on Rahul, Axar and Starc to spearhead DC's title quest

Vivek Krishnan

Inevitably at the dawn of every Indian Premier League (IPL) season, Delhi Capitals is faced with a familiar, vexing question. Can this be the year when the franchise finally breaks the hoodoo and goes for glory in the summer T20 extravaganza?

Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Punjab Kings, to a lesser extent, are the other two franchises at the receiving end of this recurring query.

DC, runner-up in 2020, hasn't had a glance at the title since reaching the playoffs in 2021, finishing fifth, ninth and sixth in the standings in 2022, 2023 and 2024 respectively.

But therein lies the charm of the IPL: in any given season, teams are matched evenly enough for anyone to conjure up a genuine crack at the title.

Intrigue

Particularly after the latest mega auction, there is a fresh layer of intrigue about how another major shake-up in the playing roster of the ten franchises will play out.

For Delhi, which named Axar Patel as the captain for the 2025 season, the most high-profile acquisitions in the auction were K.L. Rahul, Mitchell Starc and Faf du Plessis.

With Axar, Tristan Stubbs and Kuldeep Yadav being among its retained players, these six will have to be at the heart of the turnaround that the franchise is hoping to stage.

With England's Harry Brook pulling out of the campaign to focus on his hectic international calendar after the IPL, the choice of the four overseas players to slot into the starting eleven seems to be straightforward.

Deadly combination

Jake Fraser-McGurk and du Plessis are at opposite ends of the spectrum in their careers, but they could make for a deadly opening combination.

Stubbs will hope to repay the trust of the franchise by continuing to blaze away in the middle-order. Starc will bear the responsibility of the pace spearhead.

Marked change

A marked change from previous seasons for Delhi may be the range and quality of Indian players at its disposal.

In Karun Nair, Abishek Porel, Sameer Rizvi and Ashutosh Sharma, there's plenty of domestic batting depth to help take the pressure off Rahul.

In the pace bowling department, Mukesh Kumar, T. Natarajan and Mohit Sharma provide plenty of cushion.

INBRIEF

Nitish Kumar Reddy cleared to join SRH ahead of IPL 2025

Nitish Kumar Reddy is set to join the Sunrisers Hyderabad camp ahead of IPL 2025. He has been cleared by a medical team at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru after completing all the fitness tests. The all-rounder had been recuperating from a side strain that he picked up during the T20I series against England in January.

Andreeva dethrones Swiatek, meets Sabalenka in title clash

Aryna Sabalenka avenged her Australian Open loss to Madison Keys on Friday, thrashing the American 6-0, 6-1 to book an Indian Wells title showdown with Mirra Andreeva. Red-hot Russian 17-year-old Andreeva showed plenty of poise in a 7-6(1), 1-6, 6-3 win over defending champion Iga Swiatek, ending the second-ranked Pole's bid to become the first woman to win three titles in the California desert.

LIVE TELECAST

NZ vs Pakistan: 1st T20I, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 6.45 a.m.

F1: Australian GP, F1 TV, F1 TV Pro App & FanCode, 9.30 a.m.

LaLiga: gxr.world, 6.30, 8.45, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Monday)

Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Monday)

We adapted to the conditions better than others: Kohli on Champions Trophy win

To be an Olympic champion would be a fantastic feeling, says the Indian cricketer on the sport being included in the Los Angeles Games

CRICKET

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Sports fandom is fickle. After India lost back-to-back Test series to New Zealand and Australia, its cricketers came under trenchant criticism. But after the Champions Trophy triumph, they are back to being the darlings of the masses.

Riding the crests and the troughs carefully is thus an invaluable skill, and in this, Virat Kohli is a bona fide master.

On Saturday, in conversation with former English cricketer Isa Guha at the RCB Innovation Lab Indian Sports Summit here at the Padukone-Dravid Centre for Sports Excellence, the premier batter spoke on the Champions Trophy win, his batting struggles prior to that and more. **Excerpts:**

The big one: Kohli admires the trophy after India's triumph in Dubai. ANI

On the Champions Trophy: We tried to create an environment of fun and involvement. We have so much talent today, but the flip side is we have too much information as well, with which one can get distracted. We tried to create a really nice and light environment and ended up winning because we adapted to the conditions better than the others.

Struggles during the Australia tour: You have to make peace. When you play for a long time, people get used to your performances and start feeling for you more than you do yourself. After the 2014 tour of England, they were saying, 'now he has to go and score in England'. But I wasn't feeling any of that desperation. [This time], I got a good score in the first Test [in Australia]. I thought, 'It is going to be another big series'. It didn't turn out that way. But within five, six days, I was excited to go to the gym again. I was like, 'It's all good'.

Cricket at 2028 Los Angeles Olympics: Maybe if we are playing for a gold medal, I would want to sneak in for one game. No... It's a great thing for our cricketers. The amount of T20 cricket that has been played all over the world, the leagues, the IPL have all played a massive role. [To be] an Olympic champion would be a fantastic feeling.

The role of his family: I don't think people understand what value it brings. I feel quite disappointed because those who have no control over what's going on are brought into conversations and told 'maybe they need to be kept away'. No. Ask any player... I don't want to go to my room, be alone and sulk. I want to be normal. Then you can really treat your game like a responsibility. I wouldn't miss any opportunity to spend time with my family.

Shrivalli and Vaidehi win doubles title

Sports Bureau

Third seeds Shrivalli Bhamidipaty and Vaidehi Chaudhari beat second seeds Punnin Kovapitukted and Yuki Naito 6-4, 6-3 in the doubles final of the $30,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Nonthaburi, Thailand, on Saturday.

It was the first title of the season and fourth title as a pair for Shrivalli and Vaidehi on the professional circuit.

Other results: $250,000 Challenger, Cap Cana, Dominican Republic - Doubles (quarterfinals): Gonzalo Escobar & Diego Hidalgo (Ecu) bt Sriram Balaji & Miguel Reyes-Varela (Mex) 6-4, 7-5.

Vaidehi and Shrivalli. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Basking in the limelight: The members of the Indian hockey team, which won the World Cup in 1975, receive the Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Hockey India honours the class of 1975; Harmanpreet, Savita bag top awards

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

The loudest of cheers were reserved for those who, on this day 50 years back, lifted India's maiden hockey World Cup in Kuala Lumpur as the victorious 1975 team was honoured with the Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award at the 7th Hockey India annual awards here on Saturday.

The event, coinciding with the 100th year of Indian hockey's inception, saw the past and the present come together to celebrate historic and recent success, the total prize pool exceeding ₹12 crore for team achievements, individual awards and significant milestones.

The evening began with the felicitation of the bronze winning side at the 2024 Olympics and culminated with the surviving members and families of the 1975 triumphant side on stage. Ten of the 16 members were present while captain Ajitpal Singh was unable to attend due to health reasons and five were honoured posthumously. Savita Punia and Harmanpreet Singh were recognised as the best Indian players for 2024 with the Balbir Singh Sr. Player of the Year Award for women and men respectively and a cash prize of ₹25 lakh each. Savita was also named the Goalkeeper of the Year.

The Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu was awarded as the best unit of the year for its efforts at the grassroots through the Tamil Nadu School Hockey League, India's first-ever statewide initiative across eight districts and 306 schools with over 5,500 players over 500+ matches.

Key winners: ₹5 lakh each: Goalkeeper of the Year: Savita Punia; **Defender of the Year:** Amit Rohidas; **Midfielder of the Year:** Hardik Singh; **Forward of the Year:** Abhishek Nain. **₹10 lakh each: Upcoming Player of the Year (Women):** Deepika; **Men:** Araijeet Singh Hundal. **₹25 lakh each: Player of The Year (Women):** Savita; Men: Harmanpreet Singh. **₹50 lakh: Lifetime Achievement Award:** 1975 World Cup winning team.

Shi to take on Lee in final of All England

Sports Bureau

Chinese men's top seed Shi Yuqi overcame compatriot Li Shi Feng to enter the final of the All England Open badminton in Birmingham on Saturday. Shi raced away with the opening game 21-9. However, Li won the second game 22-20. But the 2018 winner clinched the decider 21-19. He will meet Chinese Taipei's Lee Chia Hao in the final. Lee edged out Alex Lanier of France 19-21, 21-14, 21-17.

The results: Semifinals: Men: Shi Yuqi (Chn) bt Li Shi Feng (Chn) 21-9, 20-22, 21-19; Lee Chia Hao (Tpe) bt Alex Lanier (Fra) 19-21, 21-14, 21-17. **Women's doubles:** Nami Matsuyama & Chiharu Shida (Jpn) bt Tan Ning & Liu Sheng Shu (Chn) 21-9, 21-17. **Mixed doubles:** Feng Yan Zhe & Wei Yaxin (Chn) bt Lee Jong Min & Chae Yoo Jung (Kor) 21-14, 21-18; Guo Xinwa & Chen Yufei (Chn) bt Jiang Zhen Bang & Huang Dong Ping (Chn) 21-15, 24-26, 21-16.

Shi. GETTY IMAGES

Antim, Reetika shine in wrestling trials

Sports Bureau

Antim Panghal (53kg) and Reetika Hooda (76kg) and Deepak Punia (92kg) on Saturday booked their tickets for the Asian championships, to be held in Amman from March 25 to 30, in the National wrestling selection trials. In the trials held at the Indira Gandhi Stadium Complex in Delhi, Aman Sehrawat did not compete due to 'injuries.'

The selected wrestlers:

Men: Freestyle: Chirag (57kg), Udit (61kg), Sujeet Kalkal (65kg), Vishal Kaliraman (70kg), Jaideep (74kg), Chandermohan (79kg), Mukul Dahiya (86kg), Deepak Punia (92kg), Jointy Kumar (97kg), Dinesh (125kg).

Greco Roman: Nitin (55kg), Sumit (60kg), Umesh (63kg), Neeraj (67kg), Kuldeep Malik (72kg), Sagar (77kg), Rahul (82kg), Sunil Kumar (87kg), Nitesh (97kg), Prem (130kg). **Women:** Ankush (50kg), Antim Panghal (53kg), Nishu (55kg), Neha Sharma (57kg), Muskan (59kg), Manisha (62kg), Monika (65kg), Mansi Lathar (68kg), Jyoti Berwal (72kg), Reetika Hooda (76kg).

Nakajima faces more than dozen champions in Indian Open golf

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Defending champion Keita Nakajima of Japan will have 15 other champions of the DP World Tour to contend with in the Hero Indian Open golf championship to be staged at the DLF Golf and Country Club at Gurugram from March 27 to 30.

Ryggs Johnston, Johannes Veerman, John Parry, Callum Hill who have won titles this season will be figuring in the line-up for the Indian event.

Darius Van Driel, Jordan Gumberg, Adrian Otaegui, Nacho Elvira, Guido Migliozzi, Marcel Siem, Ewen Ferguson, David Ravetto, Frederic Lacroix, Angel Hidalgo and Julien Guerrier, the champions of last season have also confirmed their participation in the $2.25 million event.

The 24-year-old Nakajima had beaten Veer Ahlawat, Sebastian Soderberg and Johannes Veerman to the title in the last edition. All the three will be in action this time also.

The strong field would inspire Nakajima to emulate Kenji Hosoishi (1967-68), Jyoti Randhawa (2006-07) and S.S.P. Chawrasia (2016-17) who have all won the Indian Open back to back. The line-up will also feature Ollie Schniederjans who recently won the International Series event at the same venue, beating US Open champion Bryson DeChambeau.

Entry will be free for all the golf enthusiasts.

> The strong field would inspire Nakajima to emulate Kenji Hosoishi (1967-68), Jyoti Randhawa (2006-07) and S.S.P. Chawrasia (2016-17) who have all won the Indian Open back to back

National camp begins ahead of World Cup

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Indian shooters picked for the World Cup stages in Argentina and Peru have joined the national camp at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Ranges here, beginning their final phase of preparations for the season ahead from Saturday.

DPS thrashes Falcon

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

DPS HC thrashed Falcon HC 6-2 in the KSHA-BHA Super Division league hockey here on Saturday.

The result: Rising Star-A 2 (Sridhar 27, Dharmendra Pal 37) bt Hindustan Friends 0; DPS 6 (M. Karthik 3, 12, S. Akshil 10, Senthil Kumar 15, Sadhik 21, Rahal Balan 27) bt Falcon 2 (Aravindraj 5, Viveck Ramakrishna 33).